

NORTH WATER Quick Release Sea Link

In some situations, the ability to put another kayak under tow is invaluable. Towing a boat is sometimes the best way to deal with an injured or seasick paddler, and you might also tow simply to help another paddler struggling against current or wind. The better the design of the tow system, the faster it is to deploy, and the easier it is on the towing paddler's body.

In rough water applications, towlines are most often used for short distance tows aimed at getting a paddler out of immediate danger. The goal is often to get in fast, attach a line to a kayak as quickly as possible, and then tow it to a safer location. For this job, short towlines work best, as they are easier to manage quickly, and present less danger of entanglement. For long distance tows, a much longer length towline is desirable because it allows greater distance between the lead kayak and the boat under tow, reducing the risk of collision.

The North Water Sea Link effectively combines two different towline lengths into one compact, easily deployed system. With the release of a buckle, you can choose to increase the length of the Sea Link's short 4 foot towline

to 15.5 feet. While its longer setting still isn't enough for long distance tows, an additional length of floating line can easily be stored on deck and attached to the end of the Sea Link when needed. Since you'll generally have plenty of time to rig a longer line once you have towed a paddler from immediate danger with a short line, this system works very well.

The Sea Link is designed to attach, via its beefy metal D-ring, to a "rescue PFD" (a vest equipped with a dedicated quick-release harness securely anchored to the jacket itself). A significant advantage of using a rescue PFD is that, once attached, the towline becomes an integral part of the PFD—you always have it with you: it's no longer a separate bit of gear that you can forget or decide not to bring. Another advantage is that the quick release buckle is solidly fixed in place, right in center of your stomach, where it is easily reached even in harried situations, unlike waist-worn tow belts that often rotate out of position, making locating the quick-release difficult in an emergency.

The Sea Link uses beefy tubular webbing with a length of shock-cord sewn inside it for

the primary short towline. The shock-cord provides shock absorption when towing and keeps the 4 foot towline shortened to approximately 26 inches when the webbing isn't under load. The business end of the towline features a small pouch with a buckled closure. This buckle retains a large wire gate carabiner. The carabiner is anchored to a length of sturdy 3/8 inch nylon webbing within the pouch so that when the pouch's buckle is released, the webbing feeds out creating a 15.5 foot towline.

In use, the Sea Link is excellent, offering two useful lengths, both of which are fast and easy to deploy, and the rig stays unobtrusively out of your way when not in use. Restuffing the longer line into its pouch is easy and I have never had line feed out unexpectedly, even in very rough water (violent rolls included). For long distance towing, you'll want to add an additional length of floating line to the end of the Sea Link, but for anything over a shorter distance, this rig is very safe, effective and fast. Recommended.

Suggested Retail: \$86.00 CAN

Colors: Red or Yellow

NORTH WATER

Rescue & Paddling Equipment

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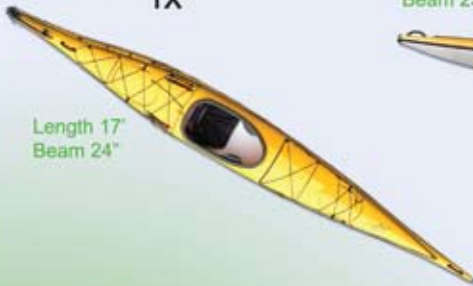


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