KAYAKING AND CLIMBING IN GREENLAND
CLASSIC UK DESTINATION – LUNDY ISLAND
THE MYTHS AND TIDES OF THE MULL
SEA SURVIVAL – PART ONE
BRIAN WILSON’S ‘STERN WORDS’
EDDYLINE FATHOM

Essentially, the Fathom is a hard chined, 16ft+ sea kayak, with a rounded, high volume deck, which looks designed to accommodate large paddlers. It’s manufactured using a material called Carbonite 2000, which Eddyline say is a thermoformed trilaminate of ABS plastics and acrylic. The finish looks like a hard glossy fibreglass, and one reviewer, having paddled it for several hours, was surprised to hear it wasn’t. The Fathom has a high keyhole cockpit, and the front and rear decks rise to meet it, giving the deck, which also features profiled patterns, a distinctive shape. A design, that though not to everyone’s taste, results in a kayak that accommodates the, ahem, larger paddler easily.

The Fathom features a typical three deck hatch arrangement, with the hatch covers also made from Carbonite 2000 material. The rear hatch is oval shaped to allow larger objects to more easily enter through it, and we had no problems with items such as trolleys. One thing we did really like, and which represents the attention to detail that Eddyline have employed, is that each hatch cover comes with a lanyard attached to it and then inside the hatch. The design of the toggles caught everyone’s eye; these are held tight to the kayak by an elasticated shock cord that pulls the toggle rope tight through a block; another nice touch.

The front deck includes a profiled flat recess into which a compass can be mounted. This lies midway between the front edge of the cockpit and the front hatch, slightly closer than where many other manufacturers mount theirs; this does mean that the compass placement on the Fathom would work better for those paddlers who would usually struggle to read one.

The Fathom, with its padded seat, backrest and thigh braces is very comfortable. The footrests are large plastic ones that are similar to those used by P-H. You’ll notice that your knees actually sit high up and fairly close together in the Fathom. This is actually a great combination as it’s comfortable and allows good edge control. The cockpit is fairly high, one tester commented that it felt like sitting in a modern whitewater creek boat. Though high, the rounded deck in no way impeded correct paddling technique.

Afloat the Fathom feels really stable, with plenty of initial and secondary stability for the paddler to utilise. This came as a surprise, as the boat is hard chined, and we were expecting less initial stability. After a few days of paddling we realised that the hull is probably hard chined to impart a strong shape into the hull panel, rather than to get the full performance that you’d expect from a kayak with the same characteristics.

The Fathom accelerates quickly and smoothly and has a hard, glossy finish with excellent abrasion and impact resistance. It is easily repairable and 100% recyclable.

Specifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specification</th>
<th>Measurement</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>16.6’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Width</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
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<td>Price</td>
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For more information see www.chillcheater.com or www.eddyline.com

WHAT REED SAY:

A LIVELY AND RESPONSIVE FUN BOAT FOR IMPROVING YOUR SKILL LEVELS. THESE KAYAKS HAVE HIGHLY EFFICIENT ROUNDED, V HULLS WHICH EFFORTLESSLY ACCELERATE TO SPEED. THEY FEEL SAFE WITH HIGH INITIAL AND SECONDARY STABILITY AND GLIDE. THE COLOURS AVAILABLE ARE HIGH GLOSS YELLOW, RED, AND PEARL BLUE DECKS OVER A WHITE HULL.

ABOUT EDDYLINE AND HOW THE KAYAKS ARE MADE

Eddyline, a US based manufacturer have been designing and producing quality kayaks for 33 years. Lightness, strength and stability in design are the hallmarks of their products with outstanding build, fit and finish.

WHAT MAKES EDDYLINE PRODUCTS SO OUTSTANDING?

Eddyline products are constructed of Carbonite 2000, a unique, tough material that is used in the aircraft industry. It looks and performs like fibreglass, but is infact, a thermoformed trilaminate of ABS plastics and acrylic. Carbonite 2000’s superior characteristics give dimensional stability and increased stiffness. It is of lighter weight, UV resistant and has a hard, glossy finish with excellent abrasion and impact resistance. It is easily repairable and 100% recyclable.

TESTED
Eddyline’s response
Thanks to Ocean Paddler for the review which gives us a chance to receive some constructive feedback. The feedback we have received so far has all been positive.

The original idea was to bring in a couple of boats that would fit into the all round touring bracket yet would be lightweight, fairly high spec but reasonably priced. We feel the Equinox (to be reviewed in a later issue of Ocean Paddler) fits the bill perfectly. However, the Fathom seems to have exceeded all expectations. Once the Low Volume version arrives we should have a boat to suit all paddlers. The material may be unusual, however anyone who uses Reef kit should know that we do not shy away from using new technology.

bow and the stern hatches, certainly enough to cope with the demands of an over night trip or even a week away.

The Carbonite 2000 material isn’t as stiff as a fibreglass lay-up, which explains the profiled recesses and ridges used in the deck moulding as these help to reinforce the deck material. However, Carbonite 2000 is incredibly light and the Fathom can be carried and placed onto a car’s roof rack single-handedly.

Conclusion
A lively, fun, adventurous sea kayak that performs well. The look, build and finish are superb. Eddyline claim the Fathom’s lively responsive nature is great for improving paddling skills and we’d agree, wholeheartedly. Chillcheater have plans to bring the low volume version to the UK and we’re already looking forward to putting that through its paces.

Our new renegade drysuit is the one everyone’s been talking about!

By cutting out the middle man and selling directly to you the Renegade is half the price of many of its competitors.

The Fathom is now available for the amazing price of £250.