Nicola Naturalist Society - Protocol for Use of Boats for the Amphibian Monitoring Project

The Nicola Naturalist Society (NNS) owns 2 small plastic kayaks with accompanying safety gear for amphibian surveys. The boats are intended to be used on small, shallow lakes and ponds and are not designed for large, exposed lakes or fast-moving rivers.

Protocols for the use of the NNS's kayaks are:

1. Any user must be a member of the NNS and hence covered by BC Nature's insurance.
2. The boats must be used only for NNS-approved projects or on NNS field outings.
3. All paddlers must be experienced (have paddled a kayak before and be knowledgeable about the skills and risks involved) or be closely accompanied in calm, nearshore waters by an experienced kayaker in a second kayak.
4. Only one person is allowed in a kayak.
5. The necessary safety equipment (see below) must be on the boat for each use, and must not be modified.
6. If wind and water conditions are marginal or risky (e.g., choppy water, strong winds, strong water currents) do not leave the shore.
7. If conditions change while on the water (e.g., rising winds, increased choppiness) head for the shore and leave the water as soon as possible.
8. A child under 18 years old must have the signed permission of a parent or guardian.

Safety Equipment - We have equipped each boat with the following equipment which, in accordance with BC law (subject to $200 fine), must be taken each time a boat is used:

1. Paddle
2. Lifejacket with an attached whistle
3. Throw bag with floating line
4. Water baler

Please report any damaged or missing equipment immediately to one of the NNS directors or the Amphibian Project volunteer coordinator (phone 250-378-2468).

Members using their own boats during the Amphibian Project must follow the same protocols.

Signature: I have read and understand the safety protocol outlined above and agree to abide by this protocol.

Name ……………………………………. Signature …..……………………. Date ………….

Parent or guardian of a child under 18 must sign above. Child's name: ……………..…………