

## Amnik 14.5

by Seaward Kayaks

The Seaward Kayaks design team worked together with outfitters and paddlers to design the new Amnik 14.5 to be a kayak that is comfortable, roomy and safe and one that inspires confidence in all but the smallest paddlers. The high initial stability is perfect for photography, fishing and camping. While being a great day-paddling boat, it still has the length and speed required for touring.

Using our popular Chinook TX hull as a starting point, we kept the bow and stern volume to insure enough space for touring and all your gear. The Amnik 14.5 is fully featured with recessed deck fittings, self-rescue straps, Sea-Dog foot pedals, our safeHatch system, keel guard, anodized aluminum rudder and our new molded seats with adjustable back rest.

The Amnik 14.5 is built in our thermoform line with our solar-coated TX plastic that offers durability, efficiency and great aesthetics.

—Seaward Kayaks Design Team

### REVIEWERS

JK: 5' 6", 150-pound male. Day paddle, calm. No cargo.

GL: 5' 11", 165-pound male. Day trip, 5 to 12 knot wind, less than 1 foot chop. No cargo.

TE: 6' 1", 200-pound male. Day trips, calm and in winds to 25 knots, waves 3 to 5 feet. No cargo.

Length overall	14' 4 1/4"
Beam	25"
Volume	15.4 cu. ft.
Cockpit size	16 5/8" x 31 1/2"
Cockpit coaming height:	
Forward	13 7/8"
Aft	10 1/8"
Height of seat	3/4"
Weight	57 3/4 lbs.

### THE REVIEW

#### First Glance

The thermoformed Amnik 14.5 "is a smooth, attractive, and very stout-looking kayak. Pounding a fist on the hull or deck, I think the boat feels firm overall; even though it gives a bit in spots, it bounces right back, no harm done. The material seems in no way brittle" (GL). "The high deck and full ends create ample space for cargo" (TE). The hull-to-deck seam is a plastic extrusion with its interior side bedded in adhesive: "It's quite solid and I couldn't feel any deflection when I pushed hard against it. The middle six feet of the hull deflects when pushed by hand, but it didn't oil-can when being paddled" (TE). At the stern, a replaceable plastic skid guards the hull from abrasion, "ideal for dragging up the beach" (JK). GL thought it was "nice to see" generous end pours in both ends.

The Amnik is "moderately heavy, but fine for solo carrying" (JK). "Carry handles offer an easy grip for tandem carries" (GL). The deck bungees and grab lines are anchored by recessed fittings. "A spare breakdown paddle can fit easily under the aft shock cord" (GL). The paddle-float outrigger system is an arrangement of webbing and quick-release buckles.

#### Fit

"The large cockpit opening allows for very easy entries and exits. I could get in seat first, then bring both legs in at once. The decks are rather high; the foredeck interferes with some paddle strokes, and the aft deck

limits layback" (JK).

"The gap between thigh braces is large, so I sat with legs a bit splayed. A short-legged paddler may find the cockpit too big, but it should work for medium to large paddlers, and fishers or photographers will have room to stow gear in the cockpit" (GL). "There was plenty of room for size-12 booties. The foredeck was slightly high and I brushed my thumbs on deck when my stroke sagged a bit, but there was nothing on deck to snag so I didn't mind the contact" (TE). The molded plastic seat has a cloth-covered foam pad and is "comfortable and supportive" (JK). The pivoting seat-back can be adjusted for height. At its lowest position it is about even



with the coaming. The thigh braces are padded flanges that are “rather flexible but surprisingly secure and comfortable. The contour wraps perfectly over my thigh and I could exert a lot of force without pressure points or slipping free. They surpassed my expectations” (TE).

The Sea-Dog pivoting foot pedals were “comfortable and offered decent support, although I think I would want them a little lower” (JK). For larger feet they are “well located near the middle of the foot so you don’t have to curl your toes to move the rudder.” TE had “about four inches of extra track so a taller person would fit.” The Amnik has additional fittings to allow setting the foot brace tracks farther aft.

The rudder is operated with “a skeg-type slider that worked flawlessly. Nicely done” (GL). TE also liked the slider: “Brilliant design. It makes it possible to retract the over-the-stern rudder on deck without it slamming down.”

#### Stability and Maneuverability

The Amnik’s stability was “on the strong side of moderate” (JK), “high” (GL) and “good—I could easily imagine fishing from the boat” (TE). The secondary stability was “high,” (JK and GL) and “excellent—even with the coaming submerged” (TE). TE and GL both noted the tracking was “very good.” It “turns very well with a moderate lean. Good balance between turning and tracking” (GL). “The Amnik was very easy to hold on edge and responded well to sweeps, though it carved turns in a moderate radius rather than skidding around tightly” (TE). The Amnik “holds a course well into the wind and at an angle into the wind. With the wind on the beam I could still hold a course with little need for corrective strokes, though there was a noticeable sideslip. Off the wind there was a moderate tendency to weathercock and I opted to use the rudder to hold course. Turning into a 25-knot wind took some work—a strong lean forward and sweeping with an extended paddle—and paddling against that wind was hard work. Breaking through waves and slamming into the troughs made the

#### BEST FEATURES

- Rudder deployment slider
- Stability

#### TO IMPROVE

- More clearance around cockpit for paddling and rolling

kayak shudder, but there was no indication that the hull oil-canned. While the conditions were the sort cruising kayakers would seek to avoid, I felt quite at ease in the Amnik” (TE).

#### Speed

“It cruises at 3 ½ knots, goes to 4 ½ knots at an exercise pace, and sprints at 5 ½ knots” (JK). TE logged “a relaxed pace of 4 ½ knots, a bit over 5 knots at an exercise pace and a top speed of 5 ½ knots in a short sprint.”

When paddled against the waves “the blunt bow tended to push up a fan of spray, but it wasn’t blinding. The bigger waves breaking over the bow stayed low. The Amnik was a bit slow to accelerate for catching waves, but once up to speed flew along at a good clip, catching trough after trough. I preferred using the rudder to keep a good line on the wave face” (TE).

#### Rescue and Rolling

“It was easy to bail out even when bringing both legs together through the keyhole cockpit. The pump and dump was a heavy lift and left about one inch of water in the cockpit. The high deck took a strong lunge to get on top of and then some kicking to get pulled across. Once I straddled the aft deck, I could feel the deck depress under me—no damage, just a bit soft” (TE). “The paddle slides very securely under the straps for paddle-float self-rescue” (GL). JK found the “loose fit and the high back deck made the Amnik not particularly easy to roll.” GL found the Amnik was “not too difficult to roll despite the roominess of the cockpit; I got ample support from the thigh braces



The slider for deploying the rudder drew high praise.

and stiff foot pegs. It doesn’t come around as quickly as a skinny boat.”

#### Cruising

The Amnik has “gobs of stowage for a short kayak. A week or more is doable. The bow compartment has good volume and a bow hatch long enough to slide in things like a large tripod” (GL). The hatches have neoprene covers with thermoformed plastic lids. The bulkheads are molded plastic held in place with adhesive. All reviewers reported the front compartment dry. For TE the aft compartment was also dry, though GL noted a ½ cup of water there after rolling practice and JK, three cups.

#### The Bottom Line

“The Amnik can do a light overnight but is better for day trips. The boat’s stability and the volume of the cockpit are good for photographers. Smaller paddlers may want to keep looking for a closer-fitting kayak” (JK). “For fishers, birders and especially for photographers, the Amnik hits the mark as a stable, maneuverable craft that handles easily on and off the water, keeps a decent pace and can transport you and your gear to lakeside or inland sea camps on daylong or multiday adventures” (GL). “The Amnik is a compact boat that will carry a big load of gear for cruising. In rough conditions, it’s more about work than play, but its stability makes it feel very secure” (TE).

#### MANUFACTURER’S RESPONSE

The Seaward Team would like to thank all the reviewers for their time, effort and opinions of our Amnik 14.5. We are glad to see that they noticed the “attention to detail” that we at Seaward Kayaks pride ourselves on in each and every kayak we build. From the ample deck rigging, generous end pours for strength and keel guard for durability, we produce a full-featured kayak with safety and comfort in mind. The variety in size and weight of the test paddlers shows that the Amnik 14.5 will accommodate all but the smallest of paddlers, providing ease of entry and exit both on and off the water. Adjustability of the foot

pedal tracks and comfortable seat-backs as well as thigh braces help to ensure a great fit in the cockpit for general paddling. The Self Rescue System installed on all Seaward Kayaks makes reentry secure and easy.

Cruising speeds and storage volume comparable to a longer kayak make the Amnik 14.5 a great compact day-tripping or light-touring model with enough room for everything a gear hound can think of. Fishing, photography, camping and cruising are just what the Amnik 14.5 was designed for, with the stability and maneuverability to ensure a secure feeling in rougher conditions.

# KAYAK REVIEWS

## AMNIK 14.5

### MANUFACTURING DATA

**Designed:** 2010

**Standard construction:** TX Solar-coated ABS Plastic

**Standard Features:** Double-sealed hatches, end pours, UHMW keel guard, waterproof cockpit cover, Paddlers-side rudder deployment system, Self Rescue System, Anodized aluminum rudder, molded and padded seat, adjustable backrest, rudder stay with tie-down, recessed deck fittings, thigh braces, Sea-Dog pedals.

**Weight:** 55 pounds

**Price:** \$2,365 USD

**Availability:** Through dealers (listed on the website) or direct if there is no dealer in your area

**Manufacturer:** Seaward Kayaks, 800-595-9755

www.seawardkayaks.com  
info@seawardkayaks.com

### SPEED VS. RESISTANCE

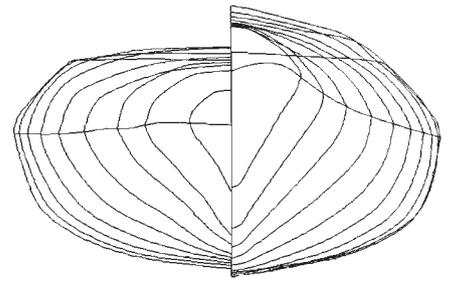
Resistance in pounds.

Speed	Winters/KAPER
2 knots	0.95
3 knots	1.99
4 knots	4.20
4.5 knots	5.97
5 knots	9.15
6 knots	14.18

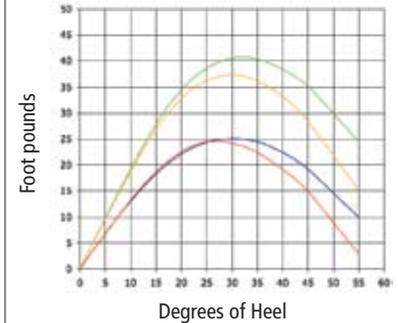
### HYDROSTATICS

Waterline length	13' 1.8"
Waterline beam	22.8"
Draft	5.3"
Prismatic coefficient	0.58
Wetted surface in sq. ft.	21.16
Center of buoyancy	54%

(Hydrostatics calculated with a 250-pound load.)



### Righting/Heeling Moments (Fixed-weight)



### Stability Curves\*

- 150 lb. paddler, no cargo
- 200 lb. paddler, no cargo
- 150 lb. paddler, 100 lb. cargo
- 200 lb. paddler, 100 lb. cargo

\*Formula revised December 2009. (Not comparable with stability graphs generated prior to December 2009.)

**TECH TALK:** Readers interested in the full set of hydrostatics can find them posted on our website at [www.seakayakermag.com](http://www.seakayakermag.com) along

with additional data. An explanation of the terms and procedures used in the kayak test program is also available on the site.

**Px** MY PADDLE PRESCRIPTION

PADDLER: Lisa-Anne Beyries  
HEIGHT: 5'4"  
OCCUPATION: Massage Therapist

PUGET SOUNDKEEPER ALLIANCE I choose to support the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance through the HealthyWaters Program.

Paddling is a good way to get intimate with water, be amazed at my surroundings, and meet wonderful people. My perfect fit ▶

— Lisa-Anne Beyries **CYPRUS** NEUTRAL BENT SMALL DIAMETER

## WHAT'S YOUR PADDLE PRESCRIPTION?

Discover your custom fit paddle

- ◀ increase your performance
- ◀ reduce your fatigue
- ◀ and have more fun on the water



Werner offers advanced design features with a variety of fit options to help you choose a truly custom fit paddle. *Your custom fit paddle is waiting for you.*

Our web site has more for you.



**Fit Guide:** Answer a few questions and discover your custom fit Werner paddle.



**WERNERTV:** Hear what real people are saying about their love for Werner paddles.



**HealthyWaters:** Buy a Werner paddle and choose which of our non-profit partners you would like to support. We'll make a donation in your name.

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