

# the newly released

# Barracuda™ SOT ULTRALIGHT



Pictured: Barracuda SoT Ultralight Touring with extras fitted.

**Barracuda, the producers of the very successful Beachcomber and Beachcomber Duo sea kayaks, decided that their unique boat forming technology would find a clear place in the Sit-on-Top Kayak market, in particular the fishing sector of the market.**

After more than twelve months of development, the Barracuda SOT Ultralight was born.

Jason Milne – Paddleguy.com had this to say about the kayak after paddling the kayak for three weeks last Christmas: (Before he decided to work for Barracuda)

*If you are looking for a lightweight, durable, efficient, stable and practical sit-on-top kayak, this kayak is the answer. After spending three weeks (on the water nearly every day) using this kayak to hunt & gather, day tour, surf, early morning fitness paddling and even loading my two young sons for a paddle I am pleased to say this kayak was perfect for every occasion. The sleek fibre glass look of the kayak created plenty of interest from onlookers at this busy holiday location (Hahei) all were surprised when told it was a durable plastic kayak.*

*I let several onlookers take it for a paddle and the comments were all positive, most notably were the comments about the weight and ease of paddling especially from females who currently struggle with their heavier kayaks. I can't speak highly enough about this kayak and have very little, if any bad things to say about it. The vacuum thermo forming process is more expensive and labour intensive than other roto-moulded kayaks hence the price is at the top end for the sit-on-top market. The price is easily justified in the benefits this kayak offers and I strongly encourage you to get down to a local Barracuda kayaks dealer to take one for a test drive and judge for yourself.*

**Hull:** The Barracuda SoT lightweight (SOT) is very different in form and function.

With a surf ski style bow, a tri-hull centre section and the slim yet well balanced stern, the SOT has a simplistic yet functional feel.

Made of their own ultra high impact plastic and thermoformed rather than rotationally moulded the SOT is light yet very stiff and has very good impact resistance.

**Layout:** The preformed seat is comfortable and offers enough feel without being hard, enabling it to be used without a clip in seat. The saddles for a seat are standard.

The SOT ultralight has two configurations:

**Touring:** For the weekend explorer, tough, manoeuvrable with plenty of storage.

**FishPro:** For the serious angler, includes a centre console, 4 flush mounted rod holders and Railblaza Star Ports.

The foot wells and "Tiptoe" pedal system is functional and offers good all round space for even the larger foot.

Mounted in the front deck is a 10 inch hatch allowing access to the bow locker, large enough to accommodate enough gear for an overnight trip if required. (Tent, sleeping bag etc...)

There are various rod holder mounting spots around the boat, forward, rear and on both sides offering even the most critical fisho the possibility to mount his/her rod holder and other device holders in exactly the position they require.

**Weight/Balance:** The SOT is very light at just 18 Kg, the lightest in its class.

When handling the SOT we found it well balanced and easy to move, lift and load.

**Paddling characteristics:**

The first impression of the SOT is that it may be a little sensitive in pitching seas, but that feeling soon dispersed and we became more confident in both the balance of the kayak and how friendly it was to paddle.

It is light weight which is nice when handling the kayak on shore.

Although not at all bad, we did find a little weight in the bow advantageous when not loaded with the typical fishing gear. The kayak paddled smoothly and accelerated very well.

Where the SOT showed its true character was in rougher conditions, when returning to the beach. Its bow and tri-hull mid section offered very stable and predictable reaction to the wind and the waves on the day tested.

Estelle, of Canoe & Kayak BOP said "We paddled it and found that

*windage was not an issue, the high bow meant a really dry ride and coming in on the surf it performed excellently with no nose dipping or broaching. Kayak fishermen have got used to a lower bow and a v-hull shape of other kayak designs, but the Barracuda SOT & fishing models have a very different hull shape which lends itself to the bow shape. For a shorter kayak with less of a waterline it's still quick and it is incredibly responsive and very comfortable."*

The Barracuda rudder system, as used on their sea kayaks is very light and easy to use. It is a balanced (weight forward) rudder so the water helps it turn, offering a light reactive response to the paddlers input.

**General:** The Barracuda SOT Light weight will appeal to the paddler/fisherman looking for a kayak that is easy to handle both on and off the water. Its light weight yet stiff hull offers solid sea handling characteristics.

The fishing kayak market is swamped with heavy, rotationally moulded and older hull designs.

The SOT is something that offers the best of new kayak designs with a respect for the requirements of the modern kayak fisherman.

**Specifications:**

Brand:	Barracuda
Model:	SoT Ultralight
Length: Overall	4.2 m
Width:	680 mm
Capacity:	200 kgs
Colour(s):	Yellow/White, Red/White
Weight:	from 18 Kgs
Storage:	
Front	96 litres
Centre	72 litres*
Rear	79 litres*

\*useable store will be less than total cavity volume

Steering: Barracuda's balanced rudder system is standard

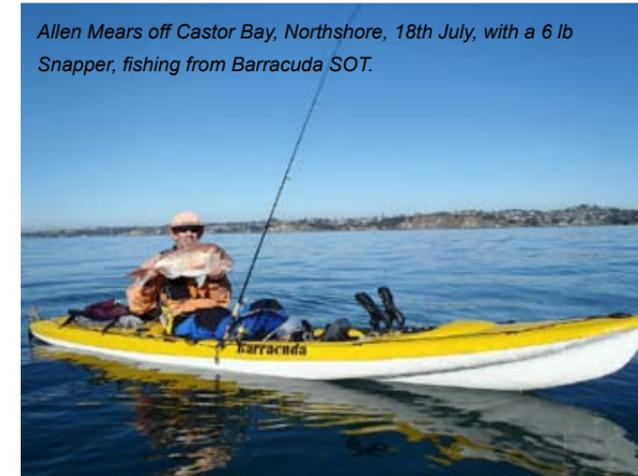
Rod Holders: 4 flush mounted, 2 Railblaza Starports c/w Rod holders

Available options:

- Insulated Fish storage bag
- Additional Railblazer Rod holders
- Safety Flag and Fitting
- Depth Sounder (Various options)
- Thigh Braces



The centre console.



Allen Mears off Castor Bay, Northshore, 18th July, with a 6 lb Snapper, fishing from Barracuda SOT.



Steve Smith, Manager at Canoe & Kayak Manukau takes the SoT for a trial on the Waitemata Harbour.



Next issue: A starting point fishing/diving kayak from Quality Kayaks, the QK Escapade.