

NELO

SURFSKI CATALOGUE

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THE COMPANY

M.A.R. Kayaks was established in 1978.

The first factory had no more than 50 m2 and there Manuel Ramos, our founder, produced his first boats for self-use. As the sport was growing in Portugal the company increased its dimension.

After years of accumulating experience and knowledge, Nelo started the international adventure that now spans all over the globe.

Nelo is now the largest canoe manufacturer in the world, and with no doubt one of the best. The factory has more than 7000m2 and 100 employees, a big percent of which does or has done kayaking.

Our models are designed and conceived by us, with the help of professional personnel and techniques, supported by a big investment in prototyping machinery, making design as precise as it' is rewarding.

Our boats focus on three main factors: performance, stability and comfort.

We are based in Vila do Conde, a small city just north of Porto, in the north of Portugal.



SURFSKI

History

The Surfski was developed in Australia in the early 1920's, when the lifesavers used the surfski to rescue swimmers in danger of drowning. But it has evolved quickly to a sport where paddlers compete in sprint races in the ocean. Those races consists in a starting on the beach, then the athletes go through the waves around a buoy and return to the shore, catching a wave to bring them back to the beach.

Paddlers eventually realized that these crafts were very versatile as that they are almost unsinkable, due to its physical characteristics, which are very similar to Sit on Top boats: a cylinder shape with the cockpit area, a seat and footwells shaped out of the cylinder. Thanks to this physiognomic details, surfski evolved a few years later into a long distance racing ocean kayak that is now more similar to a flat water olympic kayak and the races have changed from sprints to races from 6 to 250km in distance. The most prestigious surfski race in the world is the Molokai World Championship, also considered the unofficial World Championships of Ocean Ski racing, which is a 52 km crossing between the Islands of Molokai and Oahu.

The downwind paddling is the most popular part of surfski, which consists in paddling with the wind from a point to another. Catching downwind waves is similar to surfing a wave on a surfboard but this one is done out in the ocean where only the top part of the waves break, making possible to surf a wave for up to 1 km and attain top speeds of 50km per hour. The main difference between surfing and surfski paddling is that it doesn't need to have waves. As long as there is water, it is possible to enjoy the sport and for beginners trying to get into the sport, it is one of the easiest.

Surfski takes the best from surfing and kayaking and gives paddlers a versatile craft for any weather and water conditions.



OSCAR CHALUPSKY

Oscar Chalupsky was born in South Africa and he started paddling at an early age, after his father immigrate from Germany. His father was one of the founders of long distance surfski racing around the world and he raced in all the original surfski races. With his help, Oscar started to make his own surfskis at the age of 15 and he also dominated the lifesaving style surfski paddling, winning the national junior title for 4 times and the senior title some 11 times.

Oscar's big break came when he arrived in Hawaii in 1983 to race the Molokai World Championships for the first time. Oscar had his "Chalupski" surfski shipped over from South Africa to take on the Aussie Grant Kenny. He owned that race and went on to win 7 more races in a row. The surfski boat he raced became the first long distance surfski to be mass produced by Kayak Centre in South Africa and nowadays, Oscar is the biggest winner of that race with 12 victories. Later, he had a successful time at Epic Kayaks which he part founded and he made many successful surfskis.

Oscar is one of the greatest surfski paddlers of all time and also one of most knowledgeable on surfski design. His passion for the sport rubs off on his teaching and growing of the sport and he brings to the Nelo Team extra know-how.





560

Boat Length: 5,6 m
Athlete kg Range: 75kg to 120kg
Stability Level: 2

The New 560 has evolved from the old 560, a lot of people ask us why is it shorter then the 6.4 meters long like most of the skis. The answer is simple: its relative shortness makes it one of the easier downwind surfski's to paddle, to steer and to balance in all conditions. The seat has been made wider and lowered to accommodate a much wider part of the paddling population. "Stability before ability".





Boat Length: 5,6 m
Athlete kg Range: 40kg to 75kg
Stability Level: 2

This one, also developed from 560 but for smaller paddlers, is truly 100% geared at the lighter. The hull is similar but the seat position and the cockpit has been changed to make it a small person's surfski. With its low volume, it ends up being very light, but also stable, resulting in a great boat for all conditions.





Boat Length: 5,2 m
Athlete kg Range: 40kg to 125kg
Stability Level: 4

This is a boat for every person who wants to get into the sport of surfski. Nelo has developed the 520 like the 560, in order to be easier to do downwind but also easy to paddle quickly on flat water. The boat has front and back handles and new improved side handles, which makes the carrying very simple. Confort and speed are available in all water conditions, for any level paddler.





ADJUSTING THE FITTINGS

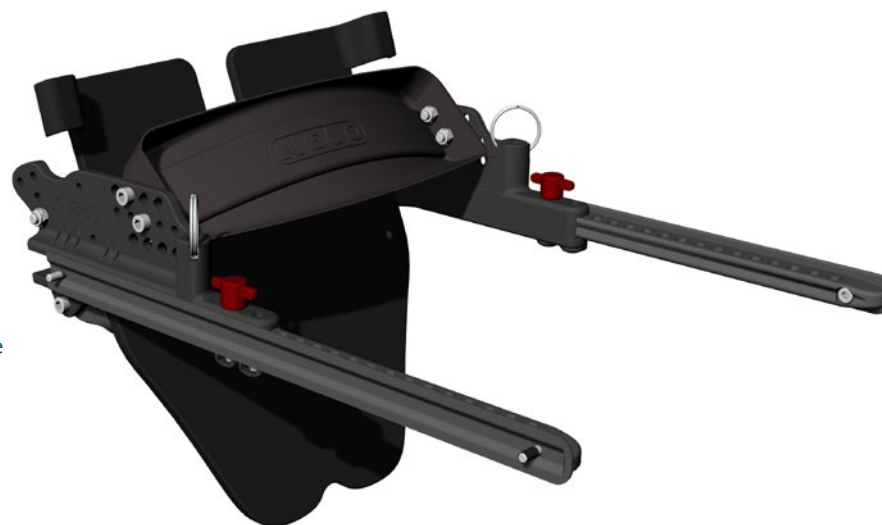


- WAVE DEFLECTOR -

All NELO's surfskis comes with a wave deflector. It allows it to decrease the volume in the surfski boats but also makes them easier to handle hard conditions. It deflects the water from the cockpit making it easier to stay dry and in control.

- FOOT-REST -

The new footrest is made to accommodate a solid carbon footstrap and it will come as standard with an adjustable webbing strap. It was shaped to fit the contours of the footwell and made from PVC and carbon. The easy adjustment system can be moved while the paddler sits in the surfski. The adjustments gaps are 10mm apart for making perfect customisation to any leg lengths, in an easy and fast way.



- BAILER -

This part is a designed by Magnus De Brito from Sweden and empties the cockpit within a few strokes even at low speeds. Foot operation makes it easy and intuitive to open and close in all conditions.



- RUDDERS -

All the surfskis will come with 2 rudders: a standard rudder that can be used in downwind and rough conditions and a weedless rudder for when paddlers have problems with weeds. The standard rudder will be made from carbon and a core material and the weedless from a polycarbonate material. This is a unique feature for the new Nelo Surfski range.

- SURFSKI COVER -

All surfski's comes with a very easy to put on and take off cover: a draw string to close. And it will also protect the surfski from harmful UV rays



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Rua das Alminhas
4485-060 Canidelo VCD
VILA DO CONDE - PORTUGAL

Latitude: N 41° 18' 51.789"
Longitude: W 8° 39' 13.2294"
(41.314386, -8.653675)

Telephones

351.22.9272608
351.22.9280924
Fax: 351.22.9272709

www.nelo.eu
nelo@nelo.eu
