

Icom Australia: Providing Reliable Communications Fourteen Days on the Bass Strait

A team of four Sea Kayakers (Mike Collister, Hew Roberts, Mark Tait and Pete Nidd) approached Icom as their preferred choice of radio communications supplier for their fourteen (14) day expedition across the Bass Strait. In March 2015, the modern day explorers paddled self supported across Australia's infamous Bass Strait. All camping equipment and food supplies were kept in the hatches of their individual sea kayaks. They had planned for contingencies and were equipped with VHF Radios, PLBs and satellite phones. They researched extensively to find the most ideal weather and tide conditions in order make it across the Bass Strait safely.

ADVENTURE CURATED

Company: Adventure Curated

Website: www.adventurecurated.com

Country: Australia

Industry: Media Website

Situation: The Sea Kayakers required a method of communication in an area that only has mobile phone reception in certain locations.

Solution: The Icom IC-M23 VHF Marine Transceiver is a compact and light device that was the perfect unit to use during the expedition.

Features & Benefits:

- Float'n Flash
- Excellent Coverage
- Waterproof and Dustproof
- Long Lasting Battery
- 12V Charging Option (Wall-charger and Cigarette Charging Cable Available)

EXPEDITION NEEDS

The Bass Strait is a Sea Strait that separates Australia from Tasmania. It is approximately 350km wide and 500km long with an average depth of 60m.

The Bass Strait is a thoroughly uninhabited part of the world making this expedition extremely dangerous. It has been reported to have mobile reception on certain islands which provides little benefit in an emergency.

In case of an emergency, the kayakers needed a reliable method of communication not only to communicate with each other but also to communicate via the emergency channel to any passing planes, vessels or manned radio posts.

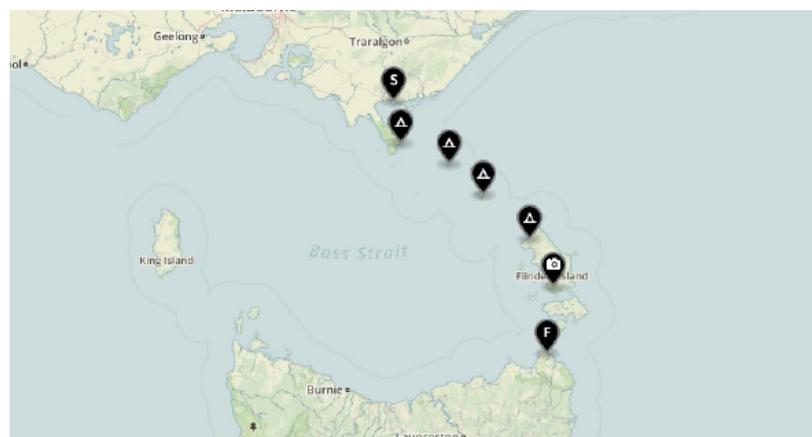


Image: Route Map



Image Credit: Mike Collister Adventure Curated

APPLYING THE RIGHT SOLUTION

The four kayakers decided to use the Icom IC-M23 VHF Marine Transceivers as their radio communications solution.

The IC-M23 is a compact and light device that was the perfect unit to use during the expedition.

It allowed for the simplicity of one handed operation which ensured minimal interruption whilst paddling, which was essential in rough conditions.

The units were also completely waterproof. The radios were soaking wet and exposed to water for the entire duration of the expedition (14 days) and the kayakers reported that the radios did not leak or show any sort of issues in performance.

The kayakers also reported that audio receive and transmit was of high quality as they were able to hear and broadcast well in windy and wet conditions. The batteries also lasted for long periods which was essential for their expedition.

Mike Collister said "When facing trouble whilst sea kayaking your best chance of rescue comes from your paddling team, being able to communicate with them is essential for safety", With the Icom IC-M23 the team were able to safely communicate with each other.

"We wanted quality radios that we could rely on and all of our research led to Icom"

- Mike Collister,
Adventure Curated

WHAT THEY GAINED

By using Icom's IC-M23 VHF Handheld Marine Radio the Sea Kayakers were able to not only satisfy their requirement for reliable and immediate communication, but also had peace of mind that in an emergency they would have the correct tools to react to any situation

Benefits of the IC-M23 VHF Handheld Marine Radio include:

- **Light and Compact:** The IC-M23 VHF Marine Transceiver is one of the smallest and lightest Marine Radios in the world.
- **Float'N Flash:** With its innovative flashing red LED light, an overboard IC-M23 is easy to find, day or night - on or off.
- **Waterproof and Dustproof:** Provided perfect operation in the extreme weather conditions.
- **Long Lasting Battery and 4-Step Battery Life Indicator**
- **Large Easy to see LCD:** The large, easy to see LCD (32x16mm) offers a clear 2 - digit channel number indication.



Enquiries: sales@icom.net.au

www.icom.net.au