

2012 SEAWARD PACIFIC EXPEDITION/WAVE VIDMAR FAQs

How long will the expedition take? Approximately 45-65 days

What is the distance between San Francisco and Honolulu? 2047 miles in a straight line, 'as the crow flies.' My route is 3,100+ miles long.

There are other people with you, right? No, there are no shadow or support boats, just me.

Why are you doing this? Personal challenge, pushing the limits of what humans are capable of, to inspire others, a strong educational component, and lite research

Has this expedition ever been done before? Yes, once, in 1987. It's never been attempted before or since.

How will you get drinking water? Using manual desalinators –water makers - I can pump seawater through special filters to get potable water. It makes about 5 liters per hour.

What will you do if there's a storm? Ride it out. I'm even prepared for a potential hurricane.

How will you go to the bathroom? I'll hang over the side

Will you be fishing? Yes, I love sushi! But I won't count on fish for my daily food rations.

How have you been training for this expedition? Kayaking, bicycling, swimming, and weights - I've been training for over a year and a half for this expedition.

Are you using sea anchors? Yes, I have three.

What happens when you sleep at night, won't you drift away? No, once I am off-shore my route can vary hundreds of miles.

How will you sleep? I am using a tandem kayak and will stretch out inside between the two cockpits.

How will you stay dry at night? I have two different covers: a hard cover that allows the kayak to roll and self-right, and a lighter weight nylon cover.

How will you get power for your electronics? Using flexible solar panels strapped to the deck of my kayak. They recharge the batteries and electronic devices on my kayak.

How long will you paddle every day? Roughly 8 hours, give or take. I'll let my body, and at times, the weather, decide.

What happens if you get sick? I can talk with my expedition doctors and I carry an extensive first aid kit.

How will you move about your kayak? By deploying inflatable sponsons and pontoons for stability. In calm seas I can scoot about the kayak without aid.

Will you have pontoons for stabilization? Yes

Loneliness, isolation.... How will you deal with this? I generally don't get lonely, and I can call anyone at anytime, send/receive emails, and have lots of things to do when I'm not paddling, like wash clothes, conduct lite research functions, etc...

How much food will you bring? Approx 2.5lbs of food a day for 80 days.

How will you carry everything you need for 2+ months? Everything I need to survive - food, water makers, gear, spare parts etc, all fits in my tandem kayak.

What will you do for entertainment? I have lots of music and hundreds of movies I can watch. I'll also compose and record music during the expedition.

How will you cook your food or heat up water? Using an expedition *JetBoil* stove in a special mount I designed, I can safely cook and paddle at the same time.

How many calories a day will you consume? Approximately 5,500 calories per day

What dangers will you face? Giant waves, being run over by ships that will never see me, storms, hurricanes. Floating debris from the Japan Tsunami last year is probably my biggest danger.

What about sharks? I'm not too worried about them. I have a special shark-repellant pattern painted on the bottom of my kayak to repel Great White shark attacks. The pattern mimics pilot fish and lion fish, both species that sharks avoid.

How big are the sharks you might encounter? The Great White sharks are around 17-20 feet long and can weigh 2 tons.