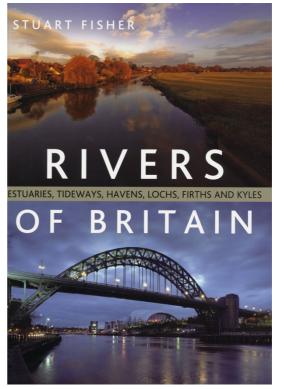
## Title: Rivers of Britain

<u>Subtitle</u>: Estuaries, Tideways, Havens, Lochs, Firths and Kyles <u>Author</u>: Stuart Fisher <u>Published</u>: 2012 <u>Publisher</u>: Adlard Coles Nautical UK <u>Website</u>: www.adlardcoles.com <u>Contents</u>: 304 pp, maps, colour photos <u>Cover</u>: softcover <u>Size</u>: 297 x 210 mm (A4 size) <u>ISBN</u>: 978-1-4081-4656-9 Review: Paul Caffyn

Stuart Fisher, editor of the British magazine Canoeist for over 20 years, always included guides to sections of the British coast in the monthly magazine, or guides to rivers and canals of Britain. Sixty two of those coastal guides, based on what Staurt maintained was the slowest ever kayak cirumnavigation of Britain, were compiled into a 357 page book in 2006, titled Inshore Britain which was reviewed in KASK newsletter No. 124, p.15.



Now in 2012, Rivers of Britain moves into the

inland tidal rivers of England, Scotland and Wales, the tidal rivers which finally morph into estuaries, tideways, havens, sea lochs, firths and kyles. The superb

A4 size as used in Inshore Britain is followed, with 70 separate 'river' sections, working in a clockwise direction around Britain from Lands End. The upstream end of each section is where tidal action ceases.

Each section is lavishly illustrated with a combination of full page width, or single column width colour photos, along with well chosen thumbnail colour photos of book covers, stamps and beer bottle labels, and rounded off with a thumbnail location map and relevant 1:200,000 section maps. The inclusion of books covers, such as Naomi James At One With The Sea, Kenneth Grahame's The Wind in the Willows, Robin Lloyd-Jones's Argonauts of the Western Isles, Dylan Thomas's Under Millwood, adds depth to the book, linking these classic read long ago with where were set or written. Inclusion of relevant stamps also is a lovely touch, especially as out here in the Antiodes we see only stamps with the Queen's head, not the mixture of scenic and historical stamps seen in the book.

The text is set in a very readable double column format, and place names when first mentioned are in bold, which is a nice touch. A relevant poetry verse introduces most chapter: There after supper lit by lantern light Warm in the cabin I could lie secure The lap lap of the weedy Bure, A whispering and watery Norfold sound Telling of the moonlit reads all around.

The text is not mere dry geographical descriptions of tidal rivers, but flows along nicely along with a marvellous mix of historical snippets, weather extremes, and how times have changed with the small and big ports.

The end of each section has a thin shaded column, with lists of: 1:50,000 map sheets, Admiralty charts, tidal constraints, the sea area (for forecasts) and rescue services. A full three page index completes the book.

I can't see the current breed of sea kayaker endeavouring to race around Britain in record time taking time to read about the next section of tidal waters and its history, but for Kiwis thinking about either a 'leisurely' paddle around Britain or a tiki tour by vehicle, this title is recommended reading.