

LES ORIGINES

Paddle moved navigation is known for over 9 000 years. Such embarcations have been found in France (Bercy, Noyen-sur-Seine, Gien...). Lately, 5 canoes, with advanced building techniques have been discovered in Italy (5700-5100 bc). As many open-air sports, nautical activities come from a fun evolution of ancestral movements practices (fishing, hunting, travel, transportation...).



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In 1867, Scottish Mac Gregor land on the France shores with his "Rob Roy", a wooden made kayak, inspired by ancestral models. This event is the starting point of the modern era of canoeing.

The French Canoe Federation: First associations have been created in 1904. The French federation was born in 1931, it's agreed by the french ministry of sports for 70 years.

Open-air sport federation, it has been fast a competition-based organisation. Perhaps, environmental awareness and sustainable development have always been, and still are a primary concern, shared by numerous of its members. It has been the subject of a strong display for more than 40 years.

The FFCK has, among other things, a National Commission "Spaces, Sites, Routes and Sustainable Navigation", formerly called "Nautical Heritage", as well as a "Regulations and Legal" service. Regional and departmental commissions take over on the territories. By its anteriority of action in this field and the results obtained, it is recognized and acts as a leader of the network in terms of representation for nautical activities and water sports in France. As such, thanks to its national or local elected representatives, it is present in water management offices or claims the right to be represented there.

The beginnings of the International Canoeing Federation: In 1924, information on nautical heritage and water access were the main reasons, more than competition, to create an international organization (Internationale Repräsentantenschaft Kanusport – IRK), initiated after the 1st world war, This was followed by the emergence of new states and also travel and shipping bans.

The canoe was introduced at the 1924 Paris Olympics, and the IRK held its first meeting to facilitate nautical tourism. The IRK was called FIC-ICF in 1936 by the IOC at the Berlin Olympic Games, and adopted this acronym in 1945.

A FIC tourism committee was responsible for spreading and standardizing information on the routes (white water classes), and to gather proposals for cruises, rallies, weeks in an international calendar, to allow the use of invitations for entry visas and then exit for paddlers.

In addition, the IRK-FIC was intended to coordinate the logistical facilities for the transport of boats - a train ticket allowed then, with a small supplement, to take a boat, accompanied by luggage in dedicated vans (until late 1970 in France).

These transport facilities are a dream for 2024...

