

# Report on the Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail



Prepared by the  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Greenways and Trails

December 31, 2007

## **Report on the Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail**

As part of the Florida Greenways and Trails Act of 2005, the Legislature authorized the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Greenways and Trails to spearhead efforts to establish the Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail, a planned 1,550-mile sea kayaking trail extending around Florida's entire coast. The trail serves to highlight and educate paddlers about Florida's rich history, enhance Florida's reputation as a world-class recreation destination, and educate and enlighten residents and visitors about Florida's fragile coastal environment, including 20 national parks, seashores, wildlife refuges and marine sanctuaries, 37 Florida aquatic preserves and 47 Florida state parks, along with numerous local parks and preserves.

The trail is being coordinated by the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT), but it relies heavily on the involvement and cooperation of numerous other government agencies at the federal, state, regional and local levels, along with private outfitters, businesses, paddling clubs and individual volunteers. Already, in some segments, partnerships of city, county, state, federal, non-profit land managers and local outfitters have been formed to help with trail planning and long-term management. The trail incorporates several existing local and regional trails such as the Big Bend Saltwater Paddling Trail, The Nature Coast Trail and the Gulf and Wilderness waterways in Everglades National Park. Also, the trail connects, incorporates and complements several blueways that have been or are being developed by Florida coastal communities.

The trail has been divided into 26 segments. Each segment is unique, ranging from the remote Big Bend Coast and Everglades/Florida Bay wilderness, to the more urbanized coastlines of Pinellas County and Fort Lauderdale. In an effort to provide greater accessibility to the trail, segment guides and maps can be downloaded from the Office of Greenways and Trails website at [www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt). As of December, 2007, mapping and guide text were complete for 19 segments and posted on the website. OGT will continue working on maps and descriptions for the remaining 7 segments.

As the trail nears completion, it is gaining recognition. In June of 2007, the trail was designated by the Department of Interior as a National Recreation Trail. Media outlets are also helping to make the trail known to paddlers and the general public. Articles have appeared in Undiscovered Florida/National Geographic Traveler, The Palm Beach Post, The Tallahassee Democrat and other publications.

While most of the major scouting for the trail is complete, volunteers and OGT will seek to close several gaps – mostly on the East Coast – where overnight

camping or motel opportunities are lacking. To assist in this effort, OGT initiated efforts to establish the Florida Paddling Trails Association, a non-profit statewide group that is helping to manage and improve the trail.

**Segments:**

**Segment 1: Pensacola/Fort Pickens.** Big Lagoon State Park (N30 18.98' W87 23.76') to west end of Gulf Islands National Seashore (N30 23.0' W86 50.5').

**Segment 2: Santa Rosa Sound/Emerald Coast.** West end of Gulf Islands National Seashore (N30 23.0' W86 50.5') to Grayton Beach State Park. (N30 19.63' W86 9.87').

**Segment 3: Panama City Beach/St. Andrews.** Grayton Beach State Park (N30 19.63' W86 9.87') to St. Joseph Peninsula State Park (N29 51.17' W85 24.1').

**Segment 4: Forgotten Coast.** St. Joseph Peninsula State Park (N29 51.17' W85 24.1') to St. George Island State Park (N29 42.18' W84 46.71').

**Segment 5: Crooked River/Ochlockonee Bay.** St. George Island State Park (N29 42.18' W84 46.71') to Wakulla Beach (N30 6.34' W84 15.65').

**Segment 6: Big Bend Historic Saltwater Paddling Trail.** Wakulla Beach (N30 6.34' W84 15.65') to Yankeetown (N28 59.55 W82 45.50').

**Segment 7: Nature Coast.** Yankeetown (N28 59.55 W82 45.50') to Anclote Key State Park (N28 10.296' W82 50.696').

**Segment 8: Pinellas.** Anclote Key State Park (N28 10.296' W82 50.696') to Fort DeSoto Park (N27 38.72' W82 44.37').

**Segment 9: Tampa Bay/Longboat Key.** Fort DeSoto Park (N27 38.72' W82 44.37') to Lido Beach (N27 18.413 W82 34.466').

**Segment 10: Sarasota/Venice.** Lido Beach (N27 18.413 W82 34.466') to Stump Pass Beach State Park (N26 54.941' W82 21.13').

**Segment 11: Charlotte Harbor.** Stump Pass Beach State Park (N26 54.941' W82 21.13') to Cayo Costa State Park (N26 41.058' W82 14.678').

**Segment 12: Pine Island/Estero Bay.** Cayo Costa State Park (N26 41.058' W82 14.678') to Lover's Key State Park (N26 23.60' W81 52.38').

**Segment 13: Rookery Bay/Ten Thousand Islands.** Lover's Key State Park (N26 23.60' W81 52.38') to Everglades City (N25 51.25' W81 23.43').

**Segment 14: Everglades/Florida Bay.** Everglades City (N25 51.25' W81 23.43') to Islamorada.

**Segment 15: Florida Keys Overseas Paddling Trail.** John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park (N25 7.49' W80 24.328') to Key West (N24 32.693' W81 48.521') and back.

**Segment 16: Biscayne Bay.** John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park (N25 7.49' W80 24.328') to Oleta River State Park (N25 55.345' W80 8.346').

**Segment 17: Hollywood/Ft. Lauderdale.** Oleta River State Park (N25 55.345' W80 8.346') to Hugh Taylor Birch State Park (N26 8.307' W80 6.461').

**Segment 18: Pompano/Lake Worth.** Hugh Taylor Birch State Park (N26 8.307' W80 6.461') to Lake Worth (N26 36.91' W80 2.86').

**Segment 19: Palm Beach/Loxahatchee.** Lake Worth (N26 36.91' W80 2.86') to Jonathan Dickinson State Park (N26 59.1' W80 8.4').

**Segment 20: Hobe Sound/Ft. Pierce.** Jonathan Dickinson State Park (N26 59.1' W80 8.4') to Fort Pierce Inlet State Park (N27 28.57' W80 17.68').

**Segment 21: Indian River/Pelican Island.** Fort Pierce Inlet State Park (N27 28.57' W80 17.68') to Melbourne (N28 04.777' W80 35.988').

**Segment 22: Space Coast.** Melbourne (N28 04.777' W80 35.988') to Smyrna Dunes Park (N29 3.949' W80 55.037').

**Segment 23: Tomoka/Pellicer.** Smyrna Dunes Park (N29 3.949' W80 55.037') to Faver-Dykes State Park (N29 39.650' W81 14.72').

**Segment 24: St. Augustine.** Faver-Dykes State Park (N29 39.650' W81 14.72') to Guana River Wildlife Management Area (N30 2.55' W81 19.71').

**Segment 25: Jacksonville.** Guana River Wildlife Management Area (N30 2.55' W81 19.71') to Sister's Creek Marina (N30 23.695' W81 27.566').

**Segment 26: Timucuan Trails/Fort Clinch.** Sister's Creek Marina (N30 23.695' W81 27.566') to Fort Clinch State Park (N30 41.985' W81 27.65').

