

S1ER Day Paddles - Escambia River

Quintette Landing to Smiths Fish Camp West Ramp Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This is a fairly long paddle down the Escambia River and Simpson Rivers and past the Power Plant Crist. It should only be attempted by experienced paddlers. The water becomes increasingly brackish as you head south, and the flora and fauna gradually change from fresh to brackish in nature. You'll notice decreased cypress and willow shorelines that change to sawgrass, reeds and to smooth cordgrass and some black needlerush; from alligators to dolphins; bass to redfish, and spotted seatrout; and anhingas to pelicans and seagulls.

Skill Level: Advanced

Distance/Approximate Time: 13.5 Miles/6 Hours

Launch Site: Quintette Landing Ramp

Takeout Site: Smiths Fish Camp West Ramp

Special Considerations: This portion of the river has numerous side creeks and rivers which can cause navigation difficulties. It is also tidally influenced. A good map, compass and GPS are highly recommended. This paddle requires shuttling.

Skill Level Definitions

Beginner: New to paddling and may need tips and or instructions about paddling strokes, safety procedures, and entering/exiting kayaks. Comfortable on short trips of 1 to 3 miles on protected waters, when wind does not exceed 5 mph.

Novice: Paddlers acquainted with basic paddle strokes and can manage kayak handling independently in winds not exceeding 10 mph on protected waters. Comfortable on trips up to 6 miles.

Intermediate: Paddlers with experience in basic strokes and some experience on different venues, including some open water. Comfortable on trip distances of 6 to 10 miles, winds not exceeding 15 mph.

Advanced: Seasoned paddlers who possess skills and experience to paddle all venues and conditions. Experienced in self-rescues. Should be comfortable paddling more than 10 miles in a day.

NOTE: Great care has been taken to ensure this guides accuracy, but weather, tides, and water conditions can change rapidly and create hazardous conditions. These maps are for visual reference only, please consult NOAA Charts for navigation. Paddlers should have all proper safety equipment and check conditions before departure. All paddlers should always wear PFDs while on the water, and leave a float plan. There are inherent dangers in any paddle sport. There are special hazards along the Florida coast due to shifting tides, changing wind and weather, shallow waters, and treacherous bottoms with soft mud, rocks, and oyster bars. It is up to each paddler to be aware of these dangers, to accept and be prepared for the risks involved, and to be certain they have the skills to safely paddle in these conditions.