

## S22 Day Paddles - Upper ICW

### Gator Creek, Catfish Creek to Peacocks Pocket Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** Departing from the Max Brewer Causeway beach launch, head east to explore Gator Creek and Catfish Creeks. There is an access road along the shoreline that forms an impoundment on the inside all the way to the take out at Peacocks Pocket. The shoreline consists mostly of salt marsh. Peacocks pocket is less than 2 miles west of the NASA Shuttle Landing Facility, and just north of Banana Creek which is off limits, but leads to the Kennedy Space Center. Dolphins and occasionally manatees are seen along the shoreline, as well as an abundance of birds over the impoundment.

**Skill Level:** Intermediate

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 8.5 Miles/4 Hours

**Launch Site:** Max Brewer Causeway Beach Launch

**Takeout Site:** Peacocks Pocket Paddle Launch

**Special Considerations:** This paddle requires vehicle shuttling. Water can get rough on windy days, especially if blowing out of the south.

#### 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.