

## S26NR – Nassau River Day Paddles

### Lower Nassau River Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** This is a moderate paddle to the mouth of the St. Marys River, half of which is through the coastal marsh and half is along the more developed northern tip of Black Hammock Island. To avoid much of the Nassau River traffic, take the right fork which is the Back River and joins the Nassau at Black Hammock Island. Once past Black Hammock Island head south into the ICW for the northern access the Sawpit Creek Ramp. If you continue past the ICW to the south entrance to Sawpit Creek, it entails going under the old fishing bridge which can be extremely difficult due to all the fishermen and their lines off the bridge.

**Skill Level:** Intermediate

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 7.5 Miles/3 Hours

**Launch Site:** Holly Point Ramp

**Takeout Site:** Big Talbot State Park Sawpit Creek Ramp

**Special Considerations:** Extreme river and tidal currents. Paddle only on an outgoing tide. This paddle requires shuttling vehicles. Boat traffic on the St Marys River can be heavy. There are bathroom facilities at both the launch site and takeout.

#### 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.