

## Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Suwannee Area

### Fishbone Creek Loop Information Sheet

**Description:** Start at the Fishbone Creek ramp and paddle out to the mouth. If the winds aren't too bad, paddle along the coast to a small beach for short break, To return, take a different route back up Fishbone Creek. Small hammocks surrounded by salt marsh dot the eastern upper edge with an abundance of cabbage palms, pines, cedar, and some oaks. Black needlerush and smooth cordgrass salt marsh make up most of the lower reaches of the Loop, with extensive oyster bars and relatively hard creek bottoms.

**Skill Level:** Novice/Intermediate

**Distance/Time:** 3.1 Miles/Approximately 2 hours

**Launch Site: Fishbone Creek Ramp**—From the Suwannee Community Center: Head East on CR 349 2.1 Miles and take a left on the Dixie Mainline. Continue on the Dixie Mainline until you get to the first paved road (CR 357) and take a left. Continue .8 miles and take a right on SW 800<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The boat ramp is at the end of the road.

**Special Considerations:** This tidal Loop should only be paddled on medium to high tide.

#### 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.