

Coastal, River, and Blueways Trails

Upper Econfina River Information Sheet

Description: Launch at the end of Whiddon Rd (River Access 17.6) and paddle down the black waters of the Upper Econfina. There are numerous primitive access sites along this wild and winding river. Take out is at the ramp at the HWY 98 bridge

Skill Level: Novice/Intermediate

Distance/Time: 8.2 Miles/3-4 hours depending on water levels and snags

Launch Site: From HWY 98 bridge head east 1.2 miles and turn left at Cabbage Creek Tract, continue 3 miles to Salt Road. Take a left on Salt Rd. and continue .9 miles and take a right. Continue and take a right on Cemetery Rd at the T, which turns into Whiddon Rd. Keep to the left at the fork. Launch is at the end of Whiddon Rd.

Special Considerations: Check water levels before departure. Access roads can be rough at times. 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.