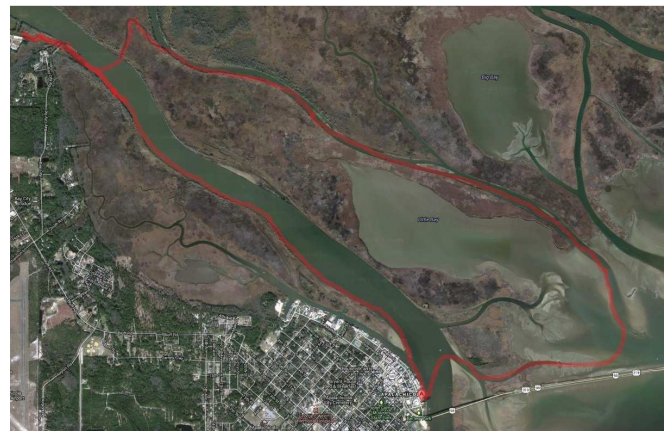
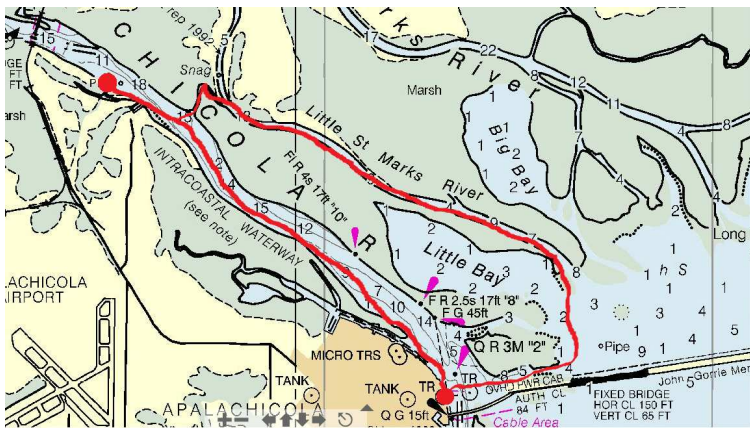




PADDLING THE APALACHICOLA RIVER RISK ADVISORY SAFETY SHEET



Welcome to the Apalachicola River and Apalachicola Bay. Experiencing the river delta area through a paddle trip allows a more direct connection with the river and the ecological treasures therein but poses a number of risks that are not appropriate for everyone. Please read through this document thoroughly and ask questions of the AMM staff before making the decision about undertaking a paddle trip. We offer much safer and less strenuous alternatives aboard our powered vessels which may be more appropriate for you. Following are aspects of a paddle trip you should read through so that you will fully understand the risks, requirements and challenges of PADDLING THE APALACHICOLA RIVER AND BAY.

1. The AMM selects trip times to take advantage of falling tides and avoid adverse winds and weather. Paddling southward from Breakaway to the AMM docks in a rising tide and southerly winds is nearly impossible so you will be scheduled in an effort avoid these adverse winds and tides. You should plan to complete your trip within two to three hours at most as the tides WILL change and the winds MAY change if you take longer that may make it impossible for you to complete your trip.
2. You must identify which of the two alternative trips routes that you will be taking and stick to that route. This will enable a rescue in the event it is needed.
3. Only experienced paddlers equipped with a GPS device in a waterproof case to paddle the Little St. Marks trip. They must demonstrate ability to access satellite view and full battery charge before departure.
4. Paddling this trip should only be attempted by persons of good physical health and a good knowledge of paddling techniques and swimming. DO NOT make this your first experience with paddling. This IS NOT the place to learn how to paddle for the first time. You will be required to demonstrate your paddling skills before being allowed to leave the docks.
5. Paddlers MUST stay within the groups from which they are launched. The entire MUST be within a 100 yard cluster at all times. This requirement is to allow others in the party to assist a paddle in trouble.
6. You must stay in your vessel since most of the course is in deep water with steep banks and marshes that may harbor large alligators, poisonous snakes or biting insects. The river may contain bull sharks and other dangerous fish species.
7. Stay out of the navigational channel and near the western shore of the river during your trip. The river is frequented by all sorts of power craft that generally frequent the navigational channel but just as often do not. Staying near the shore and in a cluster will help you avoid danger posed by power vessels.
8. You are required to wear the Personal Flotation Device (PFD) at all times while on the water.
9. No one under age 12 is allowed to take this trip. Everyone under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
10. You are required to carry a cell phone in a waterproof case or bag. This will enable you to contact the AMM should you require rescue. You must enter the AMM phone number in your phone prior to departure so that you will have the phone number (850-653-2500) readily accessible. Note that depending on staff availability, it may take up to an hour for our rescue boat to reach your location.
11. Everyone must sign the list below to document their complete understanding and acceptance of these risks.

Trip Date and departure time			
Manifest number			
High Tide			
Wind direction and speed			
#	Signature and cell phone number	#	Signature and cell phone number
1		21	
2		22	
3		23	
4		24	
5		25	
6		26	
7		27	
8		28	
9		29	
10		30	
11		31	
12		32	
13		33	
14		34	
15		35	
16		36	
17		37	
18		38	
19		39	
20		40	