

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide includes a chart of Duval County depicting main channels, seagrasses, boating speed zones, anchorages, artificial reefs, aquatic preserves, fishing piers, and public marinas and boat ramps. It also features information about aquatic habitats and animals, popular sport fish, boating safety and protocol, and a resource directory. This guide should not be used for navigation.

The Boating and Angling Guide to Duval County was produced by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, Florida Sea Grant, and Duval Audubon Society. We welcome your comments and inquiries. Please send all correspondence to the following address or visit our Web site:

Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
100 Eighth Avenue S.E.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 896-8626

<http://research.MyFWC.com/boating/>

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Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board
Jacksonville Port Authority

Florida Sea Grant

Duval Audubon Society



NOT FOR RESALE

2005

BOATING AND ANGLING GUIDE TO DUVAL COUNTY



ARTIFICIAL REEFS

Reef Name	Latitude	Longitude	Reef Name	Latitude	Longitude
Amberjack Hole (AH)	30°32'33.2" N	81°03'18.6" W	Main Fourteen & Fifteen (MF)	30°17'30.7" N	81°05'59.9" W
Buddy's Reef (BR)	30°21'40.0" N	80°49'53.2" W	Middle Ground (MG)	30°18'40.8" N	81°08'15.4" W
Busey's Bonanza (BB)	30°25'58.5" N	81°08'22.1" W	Montgomery's Reef (MR)	30°26'31.5" N	81°13'16.9" W
Casa Blanca (CB)	30°17'28.5" N	80°49'13.7" W	North of Busey's Bonanza (MBB)	30°28'40.3" N	81°05'20.0" W
Clayton's Holler (CH)	30°18'38.3" N	81°04'19.2" W	North of Harris' Ledge (NHL)	30°24'36.0" N	80°54'13.1" W
East Clayton's Holler (ECH)	30°09'45.7" N	81°09'25.4" W	North Sitizen & Seventeen (NSS)	30°17'17.7" N	80°57'35.9" W
East Eighteen (EE)	30°21'42.0" N	80°52'32.4" W	Ponte Vedra Grounds (PV)	30°20'14.3" N	81°11'34.0" W
East Fourteen-Sixteen (EF)	30°23'48.0" N	81°03'18.0" W	Rabbit Ledge (RL)	30°15'40.9" N	81°05'34.3" W
Hedgehog's Reef (HR)	30°20'45.0" N	81°04'34.9" W	Southwest of Jax Wreck (SEJW)	30°10'55.4" N	81°15'05.9" W
Horn's Ledge (HL)	30°34'04.2" N	81°08'52.0" W	Southwest Sixteen & Seventeen (SS)	30°14'43.3" N	80°59'11.0" W
Hospital Grounds (HG)	30°22'23.6" N	80°53'01.8" W	Tanzer's Waters (TW)	30°23'41.15" N	80°57'53.6" W
Jax Beach Wreck (JW)	30°16'30.3" N	81°00'59.6" W	Tournament Reef (TR)	30°27'47.7" N	80°55'51.9" W
Jax Nine Mile (NM)	30°23'48.0" N	81°14'03.4" W	West of Tanzer's Waters (WTW)	30°30'31.84" N	81°01'42.6" W



There are approximately 100 artificial reefs in the Atlantic Ocean off Duval County. For coordinates for these reef locations, please check the FWC Web site:

http://MyFWC.com/marine/ar/Report_List_ROWS.asp?county=Duval

MANATEES AND SEA TURTLES

MANATEES

These gentle, whiskered giants, found in the southeastern United States and in the Caribbean Sea as far south as Brazil, live in Florida year-round. They grow to an average length of 10 feet and, as adults, can weigh as much as 3,000 pounds. In the summer, manatees are found throughout the St. Johns River and Intracoastal Waterway. It is not unusual to find manatees in water less than six feet deep because the seagrasses on which they feed grow in shallow water.

Collisions with boat hulls and propellers that slice their thick hides injure and kill many manatees each year. Almost all manatees in Florida bear telltale scars from impacts with boats. Additionally, many manatees become entangled in crab pot lines or discarded monofilament fishing line. These entanglements can result in loss of limbs and even death.

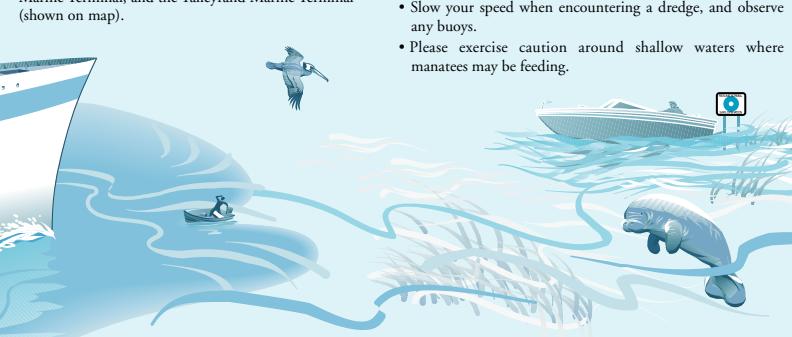


SEA TURTLES

From April to the end of October, sea turtles build nests and lay eggs on Florida's beaches, where people and predators may pose a threat. While loggerhead, leatherback, and green turtles commonly nest along Florida's coastline, most coastal nests belong to loggerheads.

BE A SAFE BOATER

- In case of emergency, use VHF Channel 13 for bridge-to-bridge communication with commercial ships. Keep transmissions short and simple. Never tie up the frequency.
- Exercise caution when boating around ships or tugs involved in docking. Their prop-wash can easily capsize small vessels or send them into the path of oncoming traffic.
- Be sure that your boat is visible at night and in poor weather conditions.
- No vessel may come within 100 yards of a U.S. naval vessel, whether the naval vessel is underway or moored. Additionally, vessels must slow to the minimum speed necessary to maintain steerage when coming within 500 yards of any U.S. naval vessel. Check with the U.S. Coast Guard for specific restrictions that may be in place around military facilities under different national security conditions.
- No pleasure boat may come within 100 yards of any cruise vessel at anytime. Pay close attention as cruise vessels navigate the harbor and dock at the JAXPORT Cruise Terminal.
- Slow your speed when encountering a dredge, and observe any buoys.
- Please exercise caution around shallow waters where manatees may be feeding.



AQUATIC HABITATS

SALT MARSHES AND MUD FLATS

Salt marshes are composed of salt-tolerant rushes, sedges, and grasses. They occur along the shorelines of estuaries in areas where wave action is minimal. These marshes, which are periodically submerged by tides, nourish and protect many fish and animals. They also buffer upland areas from storms and help filter pollutants that run off the land.

Mud flats around the bay's fringe are exposed at low tide. Although these flats are barren of visible vegetation, they are teeming with life. Birds wading at low tide feast on fiddler crabs, clams, and worms that burrow in the mud.

OYSTER BARS

In their grayish-white, irregularly shaped shells, immobile oysters filter water as they feed. Live oysters and empty oyster shells form in mounds on the estuary floor, creating bars or reefs. Oyster bars, most prevalent in the saltier tidal creeks of northern Duval County, are popular fishing spots because they attract adult seatrout, flounder, and redfish.

Exercise caution in these areas. Oyster bars may severely damage boat hulls; the sharp edges of the shells are also treacherous for people on foot. Florida regulates shellfish harvesting. For information, contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Division of Law Enforcement.

ISLANDS

Sea islands are low islands with dense oak woodlands, Spanish moss, and palmettos surrounded by vast salt marshes and a maze of tidal waterways. These islands provide food and shelter for a wide variety of wildlife. Man-made islands, or spoil islands, become vegetated over time and can provide similar resources for wildlife.

POPULAR SPORT FISH

RESOURCE DIRECTORY

BoatU.S. Foundation Hotline	1-800-336-BOAT
For information on boating skills and safety courses offered locally	
County Cooperative Extension Service	904-387-8850 904-442-4564
Duval County Sea Grant Extension Agent	For educational information about Florida's coastal zone and marine resources
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	904-270-2500 1-800-348-3922
For reports of spills, marine violations, boating accidents, and marine mammal injuries or strandings. Information also available on saltwater fishing and shellfish harvesting	
Fish and Wildlife Research Institute	904-733-4999
For information about Florida's fish and wildlife resources and research	
U.S. Coast Guard	For search and rescue assistance 305-415-5800 or VHF channel 16 305-415-6683
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office	904-232-2640
U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Hotline	1-800-868-5647
For answers to boating safety questions and to report safety defects	
Coast Guard National Response Center (NRC)	1-800-244-8802
To report oil spills, maritime emergencies, and suspicious activity	
National Marine Fisheries Service	904-232-2580
Jacksonville Office	Responsible for managing marine fisheries in federal waters
NOAA Weather Service Broadcast	24-hour weather and marine forecast 904-741-4311 162.55KHz/VHF
BEAKS	For assistance with injured seabirds 904-251-2473
St. Johns Riverkeeper	904-256-7591
Stewards of the St. Johns River	904-284-1710
To participate in river stewardship activities	
City of Jacksonville	Boat ramp information and water quality information 904-630-CITY www.cjci.net
Towing Services	Sea Tow Jacksonville 904-249-3456 904-714-2000 TowBoatU.S. Jacksonville 904-223-7541

WELCOME TO Duval County

The waterways of Duval County include the lower St. Johns River and its tributaries, the Intracoastal Waterway, the Fort George River, and the Nassau River. These waterways, which are popular for sport and recreation, support one of the world's most productive natural systems. Estuaries like these, where salt water from the sea meets and mixes with fresh water from rivers and uplands, are nurseries for young fish, shrimp, and crabs. More than 70 percent of all fish, shellfish, and crustaceans spend some critical stage of their development in these nearshore waters, protected from larger predators that swim in the open sea.

At 310 miles, the St. Johns River is the longest river in Florida and is one of only three rivers in the nation that flows north. The St. Johns River and its tributaries drain about one sixth of the state of Florida, or about 8,700 square miles. From headwaters to mouth, its elevation drops only 30 feet, about one inch per mile, making it one of the laziest rivers in the world. As the river flows north, salt water from the Atlantic Ocean mixes with the slow-moving freshwater, turning the river into an estuary over its final 120 miles. The St. Johns River is often referred to as a "black water river" because it is naturally brown. The water appears brown because it flows through wetland plants, which release natural tannin pigments. The process is similar to pouring hot water over tea leaves; as the tea leaves soak in the water, the natural tannins change the color of the water.

The abundant wildlife in the waters and along the shores of Duval's waterways includes Bald Eagles, herons, and West Indian manatees. The St. Johns River is the region's most significant source for shrimp, menhaden, blue crab, and other commercially

important species. It supports regionally significant sport fisheries such as largemouth bass, crappie, and bream. Shallow coastal waters near the mouth of the river serve as the only known calving grounds for the North Atlantic right whale. The lower basin is a nationally important layover and wintering area for migratory waterfowl. The northeast portion of the basin is also home to some of Florida's most significant cultural and historic resources.

By boating safely and with greater awareness of the natural environment, you can help protect Duval County waterways and the wildlife that depends on these waters for survival.

SHOW YOU CARE

Residents and visitors share Duval County's waters and coastal beaches with a magnificent array of birds and marine animals, including species that are threatened or endangered. Boaters should be on the lookout for these creatures and take special care to protect them and to preserve their habitats.

- Always stow your trash carefully for disposal on shore, and make it a policy to pick up plastics and other marine debris encountered while you are underway on your boat. Carelessly discarded trash can trap and kill birds, fish, and other marine animals.
- When fueling your boat, be careful not to "top off" your tank. Topping off the tank often causes gas to spill into the tank and into the water. Small toxic spills add up quickly.
- Discard sewage from holding tanks only at approved pump-out stations and marinas. A partial listing of pump-out facilities is provided on the reverse side of the Boating and Angling Guide.

AREAS OF SPECIAL DESIGNATION

Throughout Duval County, numerous natural areas of critical significance to regional wildlife receive various types of protection and special management consideration. Please become more familiar with these areas and learn how everyone's cooperation and participation is required to ensure the survival of our natural heritage and maintain the richness of our outdoor experience.

Critical Wildlife Areas These sites or habitats have been designated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as critical for the survival of certain species. Such sites receive complete protection. Sites are typically well posted with conspicuous signs and warnings, and any intrusion or trespass is prohibited. CWA in this region include portions of Huguenot Park, areas on Little Talbot Island, and the Bird Islands in Nassau Sound.

Important Bird Areas This international program identifies and recognizes locations that support populations of rare, endangered, or threatened species; that provide rare, threatened, or unusual habitat; and where birds occur in significant abundance or diversity. IBA in the region include Huguenot Park and the Bird Islands of Nassau Sound.

FWS Critical Habitat Units These areas are identified and recognized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as providing habitats critical for the survival of endangered or threatened species. In our region, a CHU for wintering Piping Plovers stretches from the St. Johns River north along the coast to the Bird Islands in Nassau Sound.

THE INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY

passes through vast expanses of coastal marsh in northeast Florida. A few regional bird species breed along the edges of this marine highway, including the American Oystercatcher. These birds nest on low bars adjoining the waterway, and boaters and anglers should avoid landing on or disturbing such sites from April to July. The birds are conspicuous and vocal when occupied sites are approached. Their ground nests and young are particularly vulnerable to dogs, Willets, Clapper Rails, Marsh Wrens, and Seaside Sparrows also nest in the saltmarsh, but their nests are typically well concealed and seldom exposed to disturbance.

Tidal Creeks, Marsh Sloughs, and Restricted Waterways attract numerous recreational boaters. With an abundance of tidal shallows, hazardous bars, and restricted passages, this maze-like environment demands cautious navigation. Motor boat operators should reduce speed when passing canoes or kayaks, which often share these waters. Operating boats at low speeds also minimizes negative effects on marsh birds, manatees, fish, ternapins, and the juvenile marine turtles frequently found in these habitats.

Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve State Park protects some of the largest contiguous coastal uplands remaining in Duval County. The preserve provides an important wading-bird rookery in addition to habitat for a number of protected reptiles, birds, and mammals. All natural resources are fully protected.

FT. GEORGE ISLAND CULTURAL STATE PARK offers many miles of secluded trails that meander through moss-draped canopies and offer spectacular marsh vistas. Reduced vehicle speeds are a necessity, and all natural and cultural resources are fully protected.

Coastal Duval attracts a remarkable variety and number of birds. Most spectacular are the great breeding colonies where thousands of birds, including pelicans, cormorants, herons, egrets, ibis, spoonbills, terns, and skimmers, gather to rear their young. These large colonies are found on islands, where nests are safe from predators and disturbance. Mudflats in shallow sections of the waterways provide bountiful fishing

grounds for resident, migrant, and wintering shorebirds.

Many coastal species of birds nest directly on bare sand or in open areas. The nests and the chicks are camouflaged, making them difficult for predators and humans to see. Visitors to beaches and sandbars to feed and rest before their long migrations, many birds fly to other continents.

Legend

The legend includes the following entries:

- Navigation Markers:
 - Vertical Bridge Height in feet
 - Docks
 - Marinas
 - Boat Ramps
 - Canoe Launch
 - Intracoastal Waterway
 - 6' Depth
- Land Use:
 - Saltmarsh
 - Aquatic Preserve
 - Critical Wildlife Area
 - Other Managed Areas
 - Restricted Access
 - Security Zone
 - No Entry
 - Slow Speed Zone

YOU CAN HELP BIRDS

- Comply with posted signs and remain outside boundaries of marked nest areas.
- Leash your dog and keep it away from birds and nests.
- When you hear agitated bird cries and see birds circling, you may be near unmarked nests. Leave quickly to allow the birds to return to their nests. A mere 20 minutes of sun exposure can kill chicks or overheat eggs.
- Birds resting on sandbars or mudbanks should not be disturbed. Wintering and migrating shorebirds need critical rest and nourishment to make their long flights.
- Birds and other animals that ingest fishing line or become entangled in it may die. If you are fishing and a bird becomes entangled in your gear, carefully remove the hook and monofilament line. If you are simply walking along the beach, pick up any stray fishing line and dispose of it properly.
- Do not throw filleted fish carcasses or unwanted catfish to pelicans; exposed fish bones and catfish spines can cause the birds severe internal injuries.
- Report injured seabirds that require assistance. Report vandalism or deliberate harassment of nesting birds. Consult the Boating and Angling Guide resource directory for appropriate listings.
- Operators of personal watercraft, Wave-Runners®, and airboats should be aware that the noise and spray wash from their vessels disturb wildlife and may disrupt nesting and feeding.

BOATER'S TIPS

~~Boating~~ Boating

- Learn and observe the rules of the waterway.
- Wear your life jacket.
- Stay sober.
- Know how to swim.
- Know the limits of your boat and your boating abilities.
- Keep your boat in good repair.
- Tell others where you are going.
- Be aware of changing weather conditions.
- Respect the rights of others.

- Check all your equipment before each trip.
The Coast Guard Auxiliary offers a free boat inspection to advise boaters of state and federal safety requirements. Violations found during these courtesy exams will not be counted as infractions.

J. TURNER BUTLER, M.D.¹

- Watch for manatees; they are often difficult to see. For example, when a manatee surfaces to breathe, only the tip of its snout is visible.
- In shallow waters with seagrass beds, go slow, pole, or troll.
- Wear polarized glasses to reduce the effects of surface glare and to allow better through-water visibility.
- Obey posted speed and manatee caution signs.
- Stow trash and properly discard monofilament fishing line. Manatees can swallow or become trapped in lines and other plastic debris that litter our waterways.
- Obey state and federal laws that make it illegal to harass, capture, hunt, or kill a manatee. It is illegal to feed, offer water to, or touch a manatee (or bottlenose dolphin). Convictions can result in

imprisonment and fines up to \$20,000.



MARINAS

BOAT RAMPS

Location	Address	City	Zip	Lat	Long	Depth	Comments
2. Mayport Boat Ramp	4870 Ocean St.	Mayport	3	6	Y	N	75 ft
3. Oak Harbor Park	2428 Seaway St.	Jacksonville	1	1	Y	N	25 ft
4. Intracoastal Waterways Boat Landing	2501 2nd Ave. N.	Jacksonville Beach	2	4	Y	N	33 ft
5. Sisters Creek	8364 Hicksbar Dr.	St. George Island	1	3	Y	N	50 ft
6. Joe Cariucci Sisters Creek Park	8416 McKenna Dr.	St. George	1	2	Y	N	45 ft
7. Lorraine Wynn Boat Ramp	4131 Ferber Rd.	Jacksonville	1	1	Y	N	10 ft
8. Arlington Lions Club	4322 Richard Gallin Memorial Rd.	Jacksonville	1	2	Y	N	50 ft
9. Bert Maxwell Boat Ramps	680 Broadwater Rd.	Jacksonville	1	2	Y	N	40 ft
10. Dinsmore City Boat Ramp	11161 U.S. 1	Jacksonville	1	2	Y	N	20 ft
11. T K Stokes Boat ramp	2126 Riverview Ave.	Jacksonville	1	2	Y	N	25 ft
12. Harbor View Boat Ramp	Harbor View Dr.	Jacksonville	1	2	Y	N	40 ft
13. Arlington Road Boat Ramp	Arlington Rd.	Jacksonville	1	2	Y	N	11 ft
14. St. Johns River Park Boat Ramp	End of Gulf Life Dr.	Jacksonville	1	2	Y	N	14 ft
15. Pottsburg Creek	8508 Beach Blvd.	Jacksonville	1	1	Y	N	12 ft
16. Lighthouse Marine	5434 San Juan Ave.	Jacksonville	1	2	Y	N	15 ft
17. Wayne B. Stenn Boat Ramp	4555 Ortega Farms Blvd.	Jacksonville	1	5	Y	N	45 ft

WE CAN HELP SEA TURTLES

- Never approach sea turtles coming ashore or disturb nesting sea turtles, turtle nests, or hatchlings. Turtles produce many eggs, but few hatchlings survive the difficult journey to sea.
- Preserve nesting beaches and dunes.
- In areas where nesting takes place, beachfront property owners should turn off exterior lights. Bright lights discourage nesting sea turtles from coming ashore and may disorient hatchlings.



Your Purchase of Fishing Equipment and
Motorized Boats Supports Game Fish

Motorboat Fuels Supports Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Access Facilities

fishing and boating opportunities.

This guide is NOT intended for navigation. For local navigation charts, see those listed below.