

Circumnavigational Paddling Trail Glossary

Bank - The slope of land adjoining a body of water or a large elevated area of the sea floor.

Bay - A body of water partly enclosed by land but with a wide outlet to the sea.

Buoys and channel markers - Floating objects of defined shape and color, which are anchored at given positions and serve as an aid to navigation. The meanings of the colors and numbers of navigation markers can be found by logging onto

http://www.dbw.ca.gov/pages/28702/files/ABC's_2016_WaterwayMarkings.pdf.

Channel - The deeper part of a river or harbor; a deep navigable passage sometimes marked by buoys.

Cove - A small, sheltered bay in the shoreline of a sea, river, or lake.

CT Hall of Fame - The CT Hall of Fame is a designation for paddlers who have completed the entire Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail (CT) under the criteria listed on the FPTA website. Paddlers who have completed the CT are listed on the FPTA CT Hall of Fame website page. To be eligible for a free FPTA lifetime membership, and CT completion awards, you **must** be an FPTA member during your CT attempt.

CT Registry - This is not mandatory, but we highly encourage CT paddlers to register with the FPTA, especially if you anticipate needing Trail Angel support along the way. Registering has several benefits, including collecting data for historical and potential funding/grant purposes. It also helps FWC justify work to maintain CT sites along the Big Bend. The CT Registry can be located on the FPTA website at <https://www.floridapaddlingtrails.com/ct-registration-form>.

Flag warnings on beaches - Means to alert swimmers and boaters of potential dangers in the water. Flag warnings and colors for Florida beaches are:

Green: Low hazard, calm conditions, exercise caution.

Yellow: Medium hazard, moderate surf and/or currents.

Red: High hazard, high surf and/or strong currents.

Red over Red (two flags flying): Water closed to the public.

Purple: Dangerous marine life such as stinging jellyfish.

Float Plan - A Float Plan is a detailed document containing important information about your paddling plans. Instruct the person holding the float plan to notify the Coast Guard or other appropriate agency if you do not return within a reasonable time after your scheduled arrival

(taking into account weather, etc.). The Florida Paddling Trails Association website offers a blank downloadable float plan on the CT page, under Safety Trips.

Florida Paddling Trails Association (FPTA) - The FPTA is a non-profit 501(c)3 all-volunteer organization. It was established in 2007 to maintain and improve the CT.

Global Positioning System - (GPS) A satellite-based radionavigation system providing continuous worldwide coverage. It provides navigation, position, and timing information to air, marine, and land users.

Inlet - A way through a barrier island or body of land that is generally navigable by boat. Term used on Florida's east coast.

Knot - A unit of speed: one **nautical mile** (1.852 kilometers) per hour. Originally speed was measured by paying out a line from the stern of a moving boat. The line had a knot every 47 feet 3 inches (14.4 m), and the number of knots passed out in 30 seconds gave the speed through the water in nautical miles per hour

Lagoon - A shallow body of water, especially one separated from the sea by sandbars or coral reefs. Example: Indian River Lagoon.

Midden - a refuse pile made by early native inhabitants, consisting primarily of shells.

Muck Walk - A term used by CTers describing walking in 'muck' along coastal marshes and plains. Muck walking is especially prevalent in Florida during winter low tides. Muck walking can be very challenging, ranging from ankle to knee deep, and is considered a "CT rite of passage" by some who have completed the trail. Muck walks are mostly confined to the Big Bend area.

Nautical mile - A distance of 1,852 meters = 2000 yards = 6080 feet. A speed of one nautical mile per hour is called a *knot*. By contrast, a statute mile, normally used to measure objects on land in the United States, is 1609 meters = 1,760 yards = 5,280 feet. The circumnavigational guide uses statute miles.

Nero day (near zero) - usually a reference to a relaxing half day of paddling or backpacking.

Pass - A way through a barrier island or body of land that is generally navigable by boat. Term used on Florida's west coast.

Portage - To carry goods or boat between two navigable points.

Primitive campsite - A campsite with no amenities or with minimal amenities such as a fire ring and composting toilet.

Put-In - The starting point of a paddling trip; where the boats are launched into the water.

Reef - Rock or coral, possibly only revealed at low tide, shallow enough that the vessel will at least touch if not go aground.

Regions - Regions are FPTA defined areas of responsibility for Region Managers and let them know which areas they support the CT. Regions consist of and overlies CT segments. Example: Region L/First Coast northern boundary is the tip of Fort Clinch. Its southern boundary is near Beverly Beach.

Region Director - In order to maintain the CT, the FPTA established 15 regions and assigned Region Directors to oversee the trail within their region. Region Directors are volunteers and act as the primary contact for CTers and for information about their region.

Salt Flat - Barren areas with highly saline and usually alkaline soils formed by the evaporation of sea water. In Florida, they are more similar to tidal flats and not the dry salt flats of Utah.

Sandbar - An offshore shoal of sand built up by the action of waves or currents.

Section Paddler - Section paddlers generally paddle a few days at a time and may take several years to complete the entire CT. These paddlers have the advantage of choosing their weather, tides and paddle direction.

Segment - The CT is defined by 26 segments. Each segment is broken down further by a put-in and take-out point, each varying in mileage. CTer can use segments to plan their paddle by using each segment individually or combining segments. There is no rule. Segments are simply defined portions of the overall CT route.

Shoal - Shallow water that is a hazard to navigation.

Take-Out - The ending point of a paddling trip; where the boats are finally taken from the water. See Put-In.

Through Paddler - Through paddlers paddle the CT during one paddling season, usually from two to four months.

Tidal flat - Nearly flat coastal area alternately covered and exposed by tides, usually muddy.

Trail Angel - FPTA Trail Angels are volunteers who work with the FPTA Region Director to support CTers along the trail. When you least expect it, Trail Angels tend to magically show up with hot meals or cold beverages. They have also been known to help CTers in times of need. Since Trail Angels are volunteers, CTers should not abuse the Trail Angel system and understand that Trail Angels are not always available and should not rely on them/plan accordingly. If support is needed, contact the Region Director for Trail Angel support and include specific location, dates and times (if known).

Trail Keeper - FPTA Trail keepers are volunteers and work with the FPTA Region Director on maintaining CT primitive campsites and “adopted’ portions of the trail.

Waypoint - A location defined by navigational coordinates, especially as part of a planned route.

Zero Day- A day in which a paddler or group of paddlers on a journey does not paddle; rest day.