

Circumnavigational Paddling Trail Glossary

(Some terms found in the guide)

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 <https://www.boat-ed.com/florida/handbook/page/5/U.S.-Aids-to-Navigation-System-ATON/>.

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.

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.

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.

Knot – A unit of speed: one nautical mile (1.852 kilometres) 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.