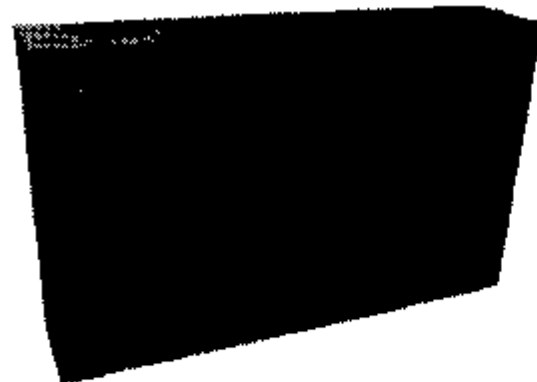


Florida Archaeology

Isolated Finds

Discovering artifacts in Florida rivers

Florida has more than 11,000 miles of rivers and streams containing many submerged archaeological sites. Most of these sites are prehistoric camping areas, food preparation sites, resource gathering stations; others are historic landings, mill sites, or fishing camps. The older sites, once on dry land, were drowned when the water level gradually rose after the last Ice Age. Occasionally, sunken watercraft are found in Florida's rivers. For years, people have been finding artifacts in Florida's rivers, especially with the growing popularity of scuba diving. Many of the state's most significant finds have been made by sport divers and amateur archaeologists, who reported and shared their discoveries with researchers.



Ownership of artifacts

Ownership of archaeological sites and artifacts located on state-controlled lands, including submerged lands, is vested in the Division of Historical Resources. The Division's Bureau of Archaeological Research administers policies and programs to protect and interpret these archaeological resources. Written permission to conduct research and recovery activities at state-owned sites must be obtained from the Bureau, except for the recovery of **isolated finds** in Florida's rivers.



What is an isolated find?