

## Shired Island Paddle

### Information:

Located in Dixie County, Shired Island provides paddle anglers with plenty of ample fishing opportunities within eyeshot of the launch point. Shired Island also offers visitors the option to stay the night. For \$10 visitors can pitch a tent or for \$20 visitors can pull up a RV and hook up to the electric. Also for \$20, visitors staying in tents can also plug into the electricity.

### Top Baits:

DOA Terror Eyes

Live white bait

Cut mullet and pinfish

Rapala Skitter Walk

Live / fresh dead shrimp

Shrimp Imitations such as the Savage Shrimp

½ section of crushed crab for black drum (top shell removed)

Shelled clam for black drum

### Length:

About 1.5 miles

### Resources:

Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge

16450 NW 31st Place

Chiefland, FL 32626

Phone: (352) 493 – 0238

### Shired Island Fishing Article:

<http://www.naturalnorthflorida.com/fish-shired-island-near-horseshoe-beach-in-dixie-county-florida/>

### Weather, Tides, Wind, Lunar:

[https://www.windfinder.com/forecast/horseshoe\\_beach](https://www.windfinder.com/forecast/horseshoe_beach)

<http://www.tides4fishing.com/us/florida-gulf-coast/suwannee-salt-creek>

### Warnings:

Storms can push in quickly from the Gulf onto Shired island; paddlers should maintain a keen awareness to the weather around them and utilize weather tracking software such as MyRadar and Windfinder to properly plan their outing on the water.

### Information:

Paddle time from the Shired Island boat launch heading west / northwest to the fishing spots exhibited on the map will take approximately one hour. Extra time should be allocated for fishing purposes. Changing tides, wind and weather may add additional time to the paddle. This paddle should not be attempted in winds greater than 18 MPH. Winds out of the north or south are ideal and this paddle is best with winds less than 10 MPH.

### Peak Fishing Times and Areas:

For anglers who wish to catch their own bait, mullet, pinfish and whitebaits will congregate on the mud flat just east of the boat ramp, especially on a rising or high tide. Another good spot to catch bait is from the County Road 357 bridge which runs over Shired Creek and is the last bridge that you will cross over before reaching the boat ramp / launch point. Standing atop of the bridge, look for whitebaits flashing below the water's surface and when spotted, throw your cast net on top of the bait and then pull it up quickly, ideally before the net reaches the bottom, as the bottom structure below the bridge is likely to snag and damage your net.

After launching at the Shired Island boat ramp, paddle west while keeping a watchful eye along the southern shoreline (to your left) black drum are often seen tailing along this grassy edge. Try using a live shrimp or an artificial lure coated in ProCure fish attractant for black drum. Black drum rely heavily on their sense of smell to locate food and because of this, utilizing scent enhancing products such as those made by ProCure or Gulp will often lead to more hook-ups. Another great bait to use while targeting black drum is a fresh clam, removed from its shell and rigged on a 3/0 circle hook with a split shot for casting weight.

Spot 1: On low tide, schools of black drum will often congregate along the oyster bars located at this spot. During high tide, try fishing these same bars with a popping cork rigged to a shrimp, baitfish or artificial lure.

Spot 2 / Spot 3: There are two grass islands that sit due north and due west of Shired Island's western tip. These two grass islands are a great place to find redfish and trout on both a falling and rising tide. Although you are apt to find fish anywhere around these islands, a good place to start the search is on the down tide side of the island, then fish around the island before moving on to the next spot.

If you are using live or cut bait and do not get a bite within the first 10 minutes, move, because if the fish don't eat in the first 10 minutes then they probably aren't there. It is important to keep in mind that this area is influenced heavily by the tides and with four tides per day, the fish are constantly moving. When you do find fish, mark the spot and continue to fish the area, as where you find one fish, you will typically find more.

Spot 4: Features a deep trench that fish will use as a transportation corridor. Try fishing the bottom of this deep trench with live or cut bait for best results.

Spot 5: After fishing Spot 4, head north until you reach Spot 5. At this location, you will find a bar that runs east to west, protruding from the main shoreline and marked by a grass island at the mouth of a small creek. Fishing this bar, which is positioned just west of the small grass island can produce a very productive bite on both an incoming, as well as an outgoing tide. Popping corks are also a good option to fish in this area to keep your baits from snagging on the bottom and to entice a bite. Remember to always keep a watchful eye on the grass edges around you, if you look long and carefully enough, you will likely see black drum tailing and finning.


Paddle Shired Island



-  Fishing Spots
-  Paddle Trail

*Lower Suwannee  
National Wildlife Refuge*

500 Feet



A horizontal scale bar is shown with the text '500 Feet' above it. Below the scale bar are two logos: the official logo of the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge, which features a bird and a fish, and a blue silhouette of a bird in flight.