

What is an isolated find?



An isolated find is an artifact that has become displaced from its original archaeological context through erosion or water currents. These artifacts, such as prehistoric stone tools and points, coins, bottles, bullets, and other small objects, are not considered of primary archaeological significance, since they have become isolated from their sites of origin.

Isolated finds do not include artifacts associated with sunken or abandoned watercraft, submerged docks, mills, and other structures, or artifacts contained in stratified sites of prehistoric activities. They do not include large artifacts like anchors, and do not include fossils. (Permission to collect fossils requires a \$5.00 permit from the Program of Vertebrate Paleontology, Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, FL 32611).

Permission to keep isolated finds

Under certain conditions, divers who recover and report the location of isolated finds can obtain ownership of their discoveries from the Division. Isolated finds permission is granted to divers to collect exposed and disassociated artifacts on the surface of state-owned, submerged bottom lands in Florida rivers, except those that are part of state and federal parks, preserves, management areas or reserves where cultural resources are specifically protected. Artifacts may not be recovered using hand or power tools, or any form of excavation that disturbs the river bottom. Divers who make isolated finds are required to notify the Bureau within 30 days of their recovery, with the following written documentation.



Information that must be reported

An Isolated Finds Form should be used to report the following information. You can [print the form](#) or request a copy by writing to the address below.

1. Finder's name, address and telephone number.
2. A map or copy of a map (USGS topographical map or equivalent) plotted to show where the recovery was made, and a verbal description of how to find the location.
3. A description of what was recovered and a photograph or photocopy of the artifact(s) next to a scale (inches or centimeters).

Isolated Finds reports are to be done on a location by location and date by date basis. For example, if a diver makes recoveries from two or more locations on a given date, reports on each recovery location are required. Likewise, if a diver makes recoveries from the same location on different dates, reports for each recovery day are required. It is the diver's obligation to complete this reporting process within 30 days of a find. This information should be sent to:

Isolated Finds
Bureau of Archaeological Research
R.A. Gray Building, Room 312
600 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0260
Phone (850) 245-6444

When is ownership transferred to