



# Florida's Isolated Finds Program

At the April 7, 2005 meeting of the Florida Historical Commission, the Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Historical Resources made the below recommendation, which was accepted by the Commission. These options will be presented for the Commission's consideration at their next meeting, May 21, 2005, 9:00am until 5:00pm at the Biltmore Hotel, 1200 Anastasia Avenue, Coral Gables.

## Isolated Finds Program

The Florida Historical Commission, at its November 5, 2003 meeting, unanimously recommended "to repeal the Isolated Finds Policy and recommend DHR develop a more effective policy." Following this recommendation, the Division and Bureau held two public meetings in 2004 and solicited opinions from professional and avocational archaeological societies, state land management and law enforcement agencies, river divers and collectors, and interested members of the public. The minutes of the public meetings are on-line at: <http://www.flheritage.com/archaeology/underwater/finds/> and were summarized in the report given at the November 2004 meeting of the FHC.

The Division recommends that the FHC hear from interested parties at its next meeting and consider three options identified by the Bureau of Archaeological Research: 1) discontinue the Isolated Finds Program, with no substitute program to take its place [removing artifacts from sovereign submerged lands would be considered a first degree misdemeanor under Chapter 267.13(1)(a)]; 2) formalize the existing Isolated Finds Program guidelines as an agency rule with little or no modification; 3) develop a new permit-based program for river artifact collecting formalized by the rule-making process.

Written comments may be submitted to the Bureau before May 11 by writing to Dr. Ryan Wheeler, State Archaeologist, at [rjwheeler@dos.state.fl.us](mailto:rjwheeler@dos.state.fl.us) or at Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research, 500 S Bronough Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250.

Representatives of interested groups are invited to speak at the FHC meeting in Coral Gables. If you are interested in speaking at the meeting, please contact Ryan Wheeler at the above address.

We appreciate your interest and input.