



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

**Glenda E. Hood**

Secretary of State

DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

June 8, 2004

Dear Friends of Florida archaeology:

Please consider this an invitation to attend a public meeting to discuss the future of Florida's Isolated Finds (IF) policy. As you may know, the Florida Historical Commission has advised the Division of Historical Resources (DHR) to repeal the Isolated Finds policy and recommended that we develop another program that may be more effective. Our first public meeting on April 29, 2004, which many of you attended, produced many suggestions for improving the program.

Based on the recommendations made at the April meeting, input by DHR staff, and contributions from the Florida Anthropological Society and the Florida Archaeological Council, several possible options were identified, including 1) permits issued to river collectors based on a rule to be developed by DHR, similar to a Florida Vertebrate Fossil Permit; 2) closing rivers within managed areas (i.e., state parks, preserves, forests, wildlife management areas) to collecting; 3) a training program for river divers who want to apply for permits; 4) amnesty for reporting older collections, and an opportunity for river divers to assist in recording data on older collections; 5) application of existing misdemeanor and felony penalties for collecting without a permit.

We would like to receive comments on these ideas and additional input at a public meeting, scheduled for **Monday, June 28, 2004, 1:00-3:00pm, Holiday Inn-West, Grenada Room, 7417 Newberry Rd., Gainesville, Florida.** You are invited to attend and to provide your opinions and suggestions. Please invite others as well; a flyer is included for posting. If you cannot attend, please feel free to contact Della Scott-Ireton by email (dscott@dos.state.fl.us), phone (850/245-6317), or mail at the address above.

Thank you for your time and your interest. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Chief, Bureau of Archaeological Research

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