



**For immediate release**

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### **Weeks Bay Foundation acquires 60 acres on Fish River**

FAIRHOPE AL -- The Weeks Bay Foundation has added another piece of property to what the Foundation hopes will become a “corridor of conservation” on Fish River.

In April, the Foundation acquired a nearly 60-acre property less than a half mile south of the County Road 48 bridge and Bohemian Park. “We call this tract ‘Alta Fish River’ for its dramatic topography and high upland ridge,” Yael Girard, executive director of the Foundation said. “The property has more than 3,200 feet of frontage on the river, making a beautiful view for kayakers and canoers coming down the waterway.”

“The section of river from County Road 48 to Big Daddy’s Restaurant is one of the most popular areas for paddling, so the conservation of this property will be especially good news for paddlers,” she added.

One could argue that Fish River is the life-blood of Baldwin County. The Fish River watershed is 158 square miles, and stretches from north of Interstate 10 in Loxley south to Weeks Bay. The river changes from tiny trickling headwaters to a wide channel that brings in numerous boaters, tubers, and anglers throughout the year.

The land surrounding the river goes from thick brush and wild forest, to sweeping farm fields, thick residential developments, and everything in between. Recently, the scenery has been moving from forests and farms to homes and highways. With this rapid change in the land use, protecting land along Fish River has become even more important.

“The Alta Fish River property adds another piece to the corridor of conservation that the Foundation is working on,” Ellis Allen, president/chairman of the Foundation’s Board of Directors said. “In 2017, we purchased the 23-acre Rio Vista property, which will become a public access preserve once restoration is completed. And in 2010, we worked with the late

Frank Laraway to put an easement on his property on the east side of Fish River at County Road 48.”

“It is our hope that land on both sides of Fish River can be preserved to help maintain water quality, prevent flooding, and provide scenic views for outdoor enthusiasts,” he added.

The Foundation has already announced plans to open up the Alta Fish River property this year for community events, including several “Star Parties” for viewing impressive meteor showers. For more details about the upcoming events, visit [weeksbay.org](http://weeksbay.org) or follow Weeks Bay Foundation on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.