

Introduction

Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 550 national wildlife refuges. The primary objective of a national wildlife refuge is to provide habitat for the conservation and protection of all species of wildlife. The harvest of animals is one tool used to manage fish and wildlife populations. Carefully managed hunting and fishing help maintain these populations at a level compatible with the environment, provide wholesome recreational opportunities, and permit the use of valuable renewable resources.

The regulations in this pamphlet supplement the general regulations governing hunting and fishing on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting and fishing will be in accordance with applicable state regulations except as noted below. As you use the refuge, take pride in America and the refuge resources. Report violations promptly. Respect the rights of others using the refuge.

Warning

Use caution when operating boats or wading in flooded areas of the refuge. Obstructions/obstacles may be submerged and unmarked.

All boats must comply with state law and display proper navigation lights from sunset to sunrise. Daylight use only except for legal hunting.

General Hunting Regulations

By hunting or fishing on the refuge, you can be subjected to game and fish inspections.

Permits

A signed refuge hunting permit (front of this brochure) must be carried by all hunters.

A Self-clearing Permit is required for hunting only on the Refuge. Self-clearing Permits can be obtained at entry points of the Refuge and at Headquarters on D’Arbonne NWR and the Visitor Center at Black Bayou Lake NWR.

Self-clearing permits consist of three portions: Check-In, Check-Out, and a Vehicle tag. The Check-In Portion must be completed and put in the permit box prior to each day’s hunt. The middle portion is the Daily Hunting Harvest Permit that must be carried by each hunter while on the refuge. At the end of the day’s hunt, the Daily Hunting Harvest Permit should be completed including hours spent hunting, species hunted, and number harvested (must indicate zero if no game harvested) and put into permit

box before exiting the Refuge. Each person parking an automobile on the Refuge must leave the Vehicle tag on the dashboard of the vehicle face up so it can be read from outside of the vehicle. Each person riding in the vehicle should display their Vehicle tag on the dashboard.

Restricted Areas

Hunting is restricted in certain areas as shown on the hunting map. No hunting is allowed within the maintained rights-of-way of the roads, ATV trails and electric transmission lines shown on the map. **Hunters may not access the hunting area by boat from the public launch site.**

Hunters may enter the refuge no earlier than 4 am and must exit no later than one hour after legal shooting hours unless otherwise specified.

Youth

Youths are generally defined as those individuals 17 years of age or younger except for migratory bird hunts, youth are defined as 15 years old or under. Youths under the age of 16 may hunt without hunter education certificate if they are accompanied by and under direct supervision of a person born before September 1, 1969, that has a valid hunting license; or they are accompanied by and under the direct supervision of a person who is 18 years of age or older and has proof of successful completion of a hunter education course approved by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Direct supervision means that the person being supervised is within a normal audible voice contact and in direct line of sight of the supervising person at all times while hunting. The supervising adult is responsible for ensuring that youth hunters do not engage in conduct that would constitute a violation of refuge regulations. An adult may supervise only one youth on a big game hunt and no more than two youth on a small game or waterfowl hunt.

Firearms and Ammunition

It is the responsibility of visitors to understand and comply with all applicable state, local and federal firearms laws before entering the refuge.

For public safety reasons, hunters are prohibited from discharging a firearm within 100 feet of the centerline of public roads, maintained refuge roads or rights-of-way, including ATV trails and electric transmission lines. No hunting on or within 50 feet of an oil or gas well tower. Target practice is prohibited on the refuge.

Firearm ammunition, used for hunting, larger than a .22 caliber rim-fire, shotgun slug, or buckshot are prohibited. Lead shot is prohibited for all hunting.

Safety

Hunters participating in special dog season for rabbit hunting must wear an orange hat. Although highly recommended, the International Bowhunters Education certification is no longer required to archery deer hunt on the refuge.

Disabled

Medically certified disabled sportsmen that need assistance should contact the Refuge Manager.

Summary of Recent Regulations

- 1. Hunting area has changed (see map).
- 2. Hunters only are required to possess and complete daily Self-clearing Permits. One permit per hunter per day.
- 3. Waterfowl hunters must be off the Refuge by 1:30 pm.

ATV Regulations

ATVs are permitted on trails designated for their use (see map). The trails are marked with signs and will be closed March 1 through August 31. ATVs are prohibited from one hour after legal shooting hours to 4 am. Raccoon hunters may not use ATVs. **ATV tires are restricted to those no larger than 26 x 12 with a maximum 1” lug height and a maximum allowable tire pressure of 12 psi. as indicated on the tire by the manufacturer. ATVs cannot exceed 750 lbs., 85” in length and 48” in width. Use of all other ATVs or ATV tires is prohibited on the refuge.**

Prohibited Activities

- Launching boats with motors greater than 50 horsepower.
- Taking of wildlife (including frogs, turtles and mollusks) and plants other than specified in refuge regulations
- Using motorized vehicles off the designated public access roads. This includes motorcycles, ATVs, jeeps, cars, trucks, etc. Parking is restricted to parking areas and along public access roads which are shown on map.
- Camping
- Open fires
- Littering
- Possession of deer decoys

- Overnight parking
- Commercial fishing

- Target practice

- Using horses and mules
- No airboats

- Cutting of vegetation, including limbs
- Launching personal watercraft (jet skis)

- Taking or possession of waterfowl, big or small game, fish, or plants by use of a guide or outfitter is prohibited.
- Driving or screwing a nail, spike, or other metal object into a tree or hunting from any tree in which a nail, spike, or other metal object has been driven or screwed.

- Possession or distribution of bait while in the field and hunting with the aid of bait, including any grain, salt, mineral, or any non-natural occurring food attractant on the refuge.

- Using trotlines, limb lines, yo-yos, traps or nets
- Participating in deer drives

- Crossing the plastic water hyacinth booms in a boat

- Operating a boat more than idle speed in No Wake Zone

- Possessing or using alcoholic beverages

- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity, including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts

- Leaving personal property overnight (includes boats, deer stands, blinds, decoys)

- Leaving flagging or other trail markers

Warning

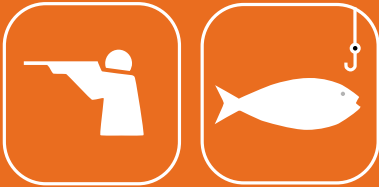
On May 29, 2003, the state of Louisiana issued the following fish consumption advisory for Black Bayou Lake: For women of childbearing age and children under the age of seven—no consumption of bowfin (choupique, grinnel); other adults and children over the age of seven—limit bowfin (choupique, grinnel) to 1 meal per month.

2017-2018 Hunting Seasons/Regulations

Type	Season Dates	Specific Regulations
Ducks, Coot	State season; including special teal season and youth waterfowl season	Hunting until noon in designated area. See map. Retrievers may be used. Construction of and/or hunting from permanent blinds is prohibited. Boats, blinds, and decoys may not be left unattended. Waterfowl hunters must be off the Refuge by 1:30 pm.
Quail, Woodcock	State season	Hunting in designated area only. Bird dogs may be used for hunting.
Squirrel, Rabbit	State season, except closed in Spring season	Hunting in designated area only. Dogs may be used in January and February only.
Raccoon, Opossum	December 1, 2017-January 31, 2018 for night hunting. May be taken during daylight hours of rabbit and squirrel season.	Hunting in designated area only. Elevated levels of mercury contamination have been found in refuge raccoons. It is recommended that they not be eaten. Raccoons taken on the refuge may not be sold for human consumption.
Coyotes, Beaver	All refuge hunts	Hunting in designated area only. No bag limit. May be taken only with weapons legal for particular season.
Deer Archery	State season	Hunting in designated area only. Possession or use of pods is prohibited. Limit of one deer per day, either sex. Possession or distribution of bait while in the field and hunting with the aid of bait is prohibited, including any grain, salt, mineral, or any non-natural occurring food attractant on the refuge.
Deer Gun	CLOSED	

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Black Bayou Lake
National Wildlife
Refuge Public Use
Regulations 2017-2018



Black Bayou Lake
National Wildlife Refuge
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<http://southeast.fws.gov>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD

June 2017



Refuge Hunting Permit 2017 - 2018
Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge

I have read and understand these regulations.

Signature of hunter

This permit is valid only when signed and must be carried on hunter's person (may cut out)