

# Wassaw

## National Wildlife Refuge

### Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2013-2014

#### Wassaw NWR, Chatham County, Georgia

Wassaw is one of over 560 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 surplus animals is one tool used to manage wildlife populations at a level compatible with the environment, provide recreational opportunities, and permit the use of a valuable renewable resource.

Public hunting on Wassaw National Wildlife Refuge is permitted on approximately 2,000 acres.

The regulations listed below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on wildlife refuge areas as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. In addition to Federal regulations, State game and fish laws and regulations are adopted and in effect unless they have been further restricted by Federal law or regulations ([www.gohuntgeorgia.org](http://www.gohuntgeorgia.org)). All Coast Guard and State boating regulations will be enforced. **Licenses, permits, all hunting and fishing equipment and effects, and vehicles or other conveyances are subject to inspection by Federal and State officers.**

#### General Hunting Regulations

**Hunters must possess and carry a signed refuge hunting regulations brochure on their persons at all times, in addition to any required state licenses.**

Hunters 15 years of age or under (youth hunters) must be supervised by an adult 21 years of age or older and must remain in sight and normal voice contact with the adult. The adult may supervise only one youth.

Each hunter may place one stand on the refuge no earlier than one month prior to the opening day of each hunt. However, hunters assume all responsibility for the loss or damage of personal property left on the refuge. **Stands must be removed by the end of each hunt.**

Hunters must check in at the refuge dock prior to setting up camp. Personal identification (driver's license or official state identification card) will be required at check in.

Hunters may check in no more than one day in advance of the opening day of each hunt period. Hunters must be off the refuge by noon the day following the last day of the hunt period.

Boats may not be moored to the government dock except for loading and unloading purposes. Boats must be moored at the specified area near the government dock.

Wassaw NWR will be closed to the general public one day before and one day after the hunt period, as well as on hunt days.

Transportation is not provided to, from, or on the refuge. Any movement within the refuge must be by foot or bicycle. Entry and exit points are limited to the check station. Hunters are not allowed to leave by boat to reach other parts of the island.

All camping will be at the designated camping area only. Fires must be confined to the camping area. (See "Camping Facilities" section for restrictions on firewood.)

The possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

Hunt weapons may not be taken from the campground during authorized scouting periods from check-in until the beginning of hunt hours.

Target practice is prohibited.

The possession of poison, or poison pods, is illegal.

The distribution of bait, and hunting over bait, is prohibited.

Hunters must be on their stands from one-half hour before legal sunrise until 9 am and from two hours before sunset until one-half hour after legal sunset.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex  
694 Beech Hill Lane  
Hardeeville, SC 29927  
843/784 2468  
<http://www.fws.gov/harrisneck>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1 800/334 WILD

June 2013



#### 2013 Wassaw NWR Hunt Permit

When signed and in your possession, this brochure serves as your permit for both the primitive weapons and gun hunts, and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.

Check-in is required upon arrival at the refuge dock.

Signature

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Deer harvested during scheduled hunts must be checked by refuge personnel before leaving the refuge.

Only designated game species and feral hogs may be taken, and other wildlife may not be molested in any manner.

Hunters are required to wear an outer garment which contains a minimum of 500 square inches of hunter-orange material above the waist.

Hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been screwed or driven to support a hunter is prohibited.

Pruning/limbing of live trees is prohibited.

Participating in "man-drives" for deer is prohibited.

**No flagging, blazing, painting, or trail marking devices may be used to locate stands, or for any other purpose.**

The use of trail or game cameras is prohibited.

All forms of litter must be removed from the refuge.

Specific regulations governing the primitive weapons and gun hunts are listed separately.

### How to Obtain Hunt Permits

The attached permit (on cover) to participate in the primitive weapons and/or gun hunt will be validated during check-in at the refuge dock. An unlimited number of permits will be available for these hunts.

Additional hunting regulations brochures may be obtained in advance from the Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex headquarters or downloaded from the refuge website:

<http://www.fws.gov/savannah/hunting.html>

Brochures will also be available upon check-in during refuge hunts.

### Primitive Weapons Hunt

Primitive weapons hunting for deer and feral hogs will be permitted only on October 24 - 26, 2013 within the area indicated on the attached refuge map.

Five deer (no more than two antlered) may be taken (state bonus tags will be issued for two of these). Feral hogs (no bag limit) may also be taken.

We allow only bows and muzzle-loading rifles, in accordance with state regulations, during the primitive weapons hunt.

### Gun Hunt

Gun hunting for deer on Wassaw NWR will be permitted only on December 12 - 14, 2013 within the area indicated on the attached refuge map.

Five deer (no more than two antlered) may be taken (state bonus tags will be issued for two of these). Feral hogs (no bag limit) may also be taken.

For hunting, we allow only shotguns (20-gauge or larger; slugs only), center-fire rifles (.22 caliber or larger), bows, and primitive weapons, in accordance with state regulations, during the gun hunt.

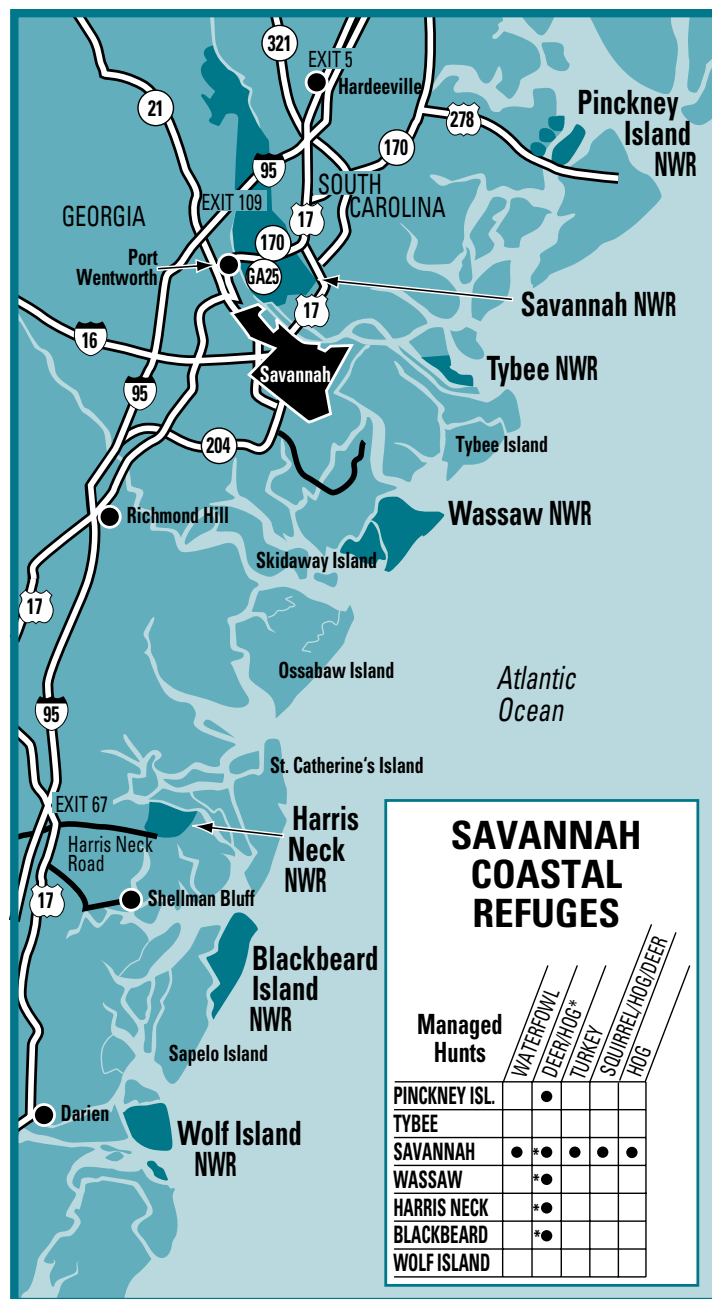
### Camping Facilities

All campsites are primitive. Chemical toilets are available at the nearby check station. A cooler unit is operated to store harvested deer. **Potable water is not available.**

In an effort to prevent the spread of tree-killing insects and disease, hunters are prohibited from bringing firewood to the refuge. Hunters may cut what they need from dead and downed wood in and around the campground area (cutting live or standing dead trees is prohibited.)

### Boater Caution

Coastal waters are subject to extreme tidal fluctuations of six to ten feet. Hunters should be familiar with the tide tables, and monitor coastal weather conditions before navigating to the barrier island refuge.



### Fishing Regulations

Sport fishing on Wassaw NWR is permitted on designated areas of the refuge, in accordance with all applicable State regulations\*, and subject to the following special conditions:

Saltwater fishing is permitted year-round in the estuarine waters adjacent to the refuge.

Bank/beach fishing into estuarine waters is permitted only from sunrise to sunset, except during managed hunts.

Freshwater fishing is prohibited.

\*A Georgia fishing license is required.

**Signs Protect Visitors and Resources**

Millions of people visit national wildlife refuges each year. The impact of human activity, if not regulated, can degrade these wildlands. Signs control recreational activities while protecting natural resources on the refuge. Please respect the following signs:



This sign delineates the refuge boundary. You may enter only on designated access routes. Consult manager for restrictions.



This area is closed to all entry. No hunting or sight-seeing is permitted. Roads and trails within this area are closed to the public.

