

**Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge  
General Hunting and Fishing Regulations**

The regulations listed below supplement Louisiana State hunting and fishing regulations and the general regulations governing hunting and fishing on National Wildlife Refuges set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. All plants and wildlife are protected unless a specific Refuge hunting season allows take of wildlife under this permit. Individuals utilizing this Refuge are subject to inspection of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles and their contents by wildlife officers.

All hunters must possess a Refuge permit. This brochure, when signed and in your possession, serves as a permit for all 2017 - 2018 Refuge hunts.

The Refuge is closed from one-half hour after legal sunset to one-half hour before legal sunrise, except as noted otherwise.

Hunters may not enter the Refuge before 4 am and must exit no later than two hours after legal sunset for that day. Waterfowl hunting must cease by 12 noon and all decoys and blinds must be removed by 1 pm.

Refuge areas closed to public hunting are marked with “No Hunting Zone” signs and/or shown on the map attached to this brochure.

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with Refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

Hunters may erect temporary deer stands one day prior to the start of deer archery season. Hunters must remove all deer stands within one day after the archery season closes. Hunters may place only one deer stand on the Refuge. Deer stands must have owner’s name, address, and phone number clearly printed on the stand. All untagged stands are subject to seizure.

All State approved archery equipment will be allowed as a legal means of take during the deer archery season.

Youth hunters under the age of 16 must be supervised by an adult age 21 or older. Supervising adults shall maintain visual and voice contact with the youth at all times. The supervising adult is responsible for ensuring that youth hunters do not engage in conduct that would constitute a violation of Refuge regulations.

All hunters, except waterfowl hunters, are required to wear a minimum of a hunters orange or blaze pink cap or hat during dog season for squirrel and rabbit.

Motorized vehicles are only permitted on public roads and designated parking areas.

**Specific Sport Fishing Regulations**

Recreational fishing and crabbing are permitted year-round in accordance with State regulations subject to the following conditions:

Use of trotlines, limb lines, slat traps, gar sets, hoop and gill nets or alligator lines is prohibited. You may take bait with cast nets eight foot diameter or less.

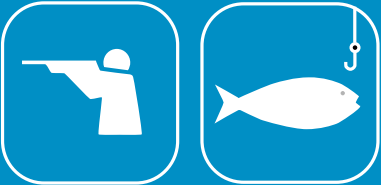
Commercial fishing and shell fishing is prohibited.

Recreational fishing, crawfishing and crabbing are permitted from 30 minutes before legal sunrise to 30 minutes after legal sunset, except we allow night fishing, crabbing, and crawfishing from the bank and pier on Lake Road.

Only electric motors are allowed at the non-motorized boat launch located at the end of Sapsucker Road.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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*National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2017-2018*



Southeast Louisiana Refuges  
Big Branch Marsh  
61389 Highway 434  
Lacombe, LA 70445  
985/882 2000  
www.fws.gov/southeastlouisiana

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

August 2017



**Big Branch Marsh Refuge Hunting Permit 2017-2018**  
When signed and carried, this serves as your permit for all Refuge hunts and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein. Expires August 31, 2018.

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Signature (permits are not transferable)

Prohibited Activities

- Possession of buckshot, lead shot, slugs, rifles or rifle ammunition larger than .17 or .22 cal while hunting.
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting.
- All commercial hunting, fishing, and shell fishing activities including guiding, outfitting, lodging and club membership or participating in a paid guided hunt or fish trip.
- Hunting from a permanent tree stand, or from a tree in which a metal object (such as nails, spikes, screws) has been driven.
- Hunting in Refuge designated closed areas.
- Possession of toxic shot during all Refuge hunts.
- Target shooting on the Refuge.
- Air-thrust boats, aircraft, mud boats and air cooled propulsion engines.
- The possession or distribution of bait while in the field and hunting with the aid of bait, including any grain, salt, minerals, or any non-naturally-occurring food attractant.
- Cutting, removing or damaging trees and other live plant matter.
- The use or possession of any type of material used as flagging or trail markers, except reflective tacks.
- Horses and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs & UTVs).
- Remote cameras, including trail cameras.
- The use of deer decoys.
- Hunting within 150 feet from the centerline of roads open to vehicular travel, Boy Scout Road, any maintained trails, or from any residence.
- Camping.
- Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles.

Signs and Boundaries

Signs are useful tools in regulating the use of a public area. The wording of the signs below apply to the areas behind the signs. Pay attention to the signs, watch for boundary corners, and check your location with the maps.



This sign marks the Refuge boundary. Public entry is generally authorized. However, other refuges in the system may have different regulations concerning general entry. Always know the regulations before entering.



This sign marks an area on the Refuge designated for environmental education in which students learn about the Refuge. The area bounded by these signs is closed to hunting.



This sign means that the area is closed to all entry. Do not trespass behind this sign for any reason.

Type Hunt	Season	Special Regulations
Archery deer	State season and regulations apply.  October 1, 2017 - January 31, 2018	Deer of either sex may be taken in accordance with State season limits. Either sex may be taken during the State’s buck only gun season.  Dogs and driving deer are prohibited.  Hogs may only be taken as incidental take with State-approved archery equipment.  All State-approved archery equipment is allowed.
Squirrel and Rabbit	State season and regulations apply.  Closed to hunting during the State spring squirrel season.	Shotguns: non-toxic shot only, shot size must be #4 or smaller.  Rifles: Only rimfire rifles size .22 or .17 are permitted.  Dogs may be used only after the close of the State archery deer season and until the end of February.
Waterfowl and Coots (ducks, geese, coots)	Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday of State season.	Waterfowl and coot hunting permitted from 30 minutes before legal sunrise until noon, including the State special teal season and State youth waterfowl hunt.  Only non-toxic shot is permitted.  Temporary blinds only, all blinds and decoys must be removed by 1 pm.  Dogs may be used to retrieve.  Closed to hunting during the special “light goose” conservation season.
Woodcock and Quail	State season	Only non-toxic shot size #4 or smaller is permitted.  We only allow dogs to locate, point, and retrieve when hunting for quail.
Gallinules, Rails and Snipe	Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday of State Season.	Only non-toxic shot size #4 or smaller is permitted.  Hunting permitted from 30 minutes before legal sunrise until noon.