

Patuxent Research Refuge - Fishing Regulations 2009

Cash Lake Season: June 14 – October 11, 2009 (June-Aug.: 6:00AM-8:00PM; Sept.-Oct.: 7:00 AM – 6:30PM)

North Tract Season: January 1 – December 31, 2009 (During operating hours; some exceptions apply)

Freshwater fishing and boating laws of the State of Maryland apply except as further restricted in Refuge Regulations. Fishing is not allowed on Federal Holidays or other dates when the Refuge is closed.

Permits:

All anglers age 16 and older must have an annual Refuge Fishing Permit as well as a valid Maryland non-tidal fishing license. Permittees under the age of 18 must have parent/guardian co-sign permit. Permittee receives two copies of permit – **top copy must be in permittee's possession while fishing; bottom copy must be displayed in vehicle windshield.** Permit covers permittee and up to 3 youth age 15 or younger. Permittee must be present for youth to fish. Anglers age 17 or younger must be accompanied in the field by an adult, age 21 or older, possessing a fishing permit; and they must maintain visual contact with each other within a 50 yard (45m) distance.

Fishing Areas: Fishing is restricted to designated areas only.

North Tract: Permitted areas may vary each day and will be identified upon check in. Anglers may also call ahead (301-776-3090) for information.

Cash Lake: Fishing is permitted from the pier and shorelines on both sides of pier to posted signs. Fishing is NOT permitted from floating boardwalks or the shore of the Peninsula (or any darkened area on the map.) Anglers must follow regulations on all posted signs.

Species and Daily Creel limits: State regulations apply and are further restricted by Refuge Fishing Regulations:

Bluegill must be 6" or larger; bass are catch-and-release only; chain pickerel are limited to one (1) per day.

Catch-and-release fishing for all species is encouraged.

Fishing methods: Hook, line, and tackle as permitted by Maryland law. **Possession of or use of lead sinkers is prohibited. Barbless or circle hooks are encouraged.** Per Refuge Regulations, **earthworms are the only live bait allowed; artificial lures are preferred. Bloodworms and fish or other animals or parts of animals may not be used as bait. Harvest of bait on the Refuge is prohibited.** Fishing lines must be attended at all times. Wading, for fishing purposes, is permitted **only** south of Bailey's Bridge in the Little Patuxent River on North Tract.

Prohibited Activities:

The following activities are prohibited on the Patuxent Research Refuge: Swimming, sunbathing, littering, camping, campfires, firearms, possession of alcoholic beverages, picnicking, disturbance to or removal of vegetation or wildlife. In addition, all pets must be kept on a leash no longer than 10 feet, and are not allowed in the water. Public trails near Cash Lake are closed at 4:30. No trash cans are provided. Our **Trash Policy is "Pack it in: Pack it out."** **Properly dispose of monofilament line. Help Keep YOUR National Wildlife Refuge litter-free.**

Failure to comply with any refuge regulations, state or other federal laws may result in the following:

1. Maximum of \$100,000 fine and/or 1-year imprisonment
2. Arrest and/or forfeiture of fishing equipment and vehicles
3. Forfeiture of harvested fish
4. Revocation of fishing permit and privileges

Reports: Anglers are encouraged to help Refuge biologists collect fishing data. Report your catch on creel report forms available at the North Tract Visitor Contact Station, and at the Cash Lake creel data mailbox.

Boats:

North Tract: Boats are prohibited.

Cash Lake: Boats are permitted for fishing only. State boating laws apply, including requirements for PFDs (Personal Floatation Devices). Only canoes and small car-top boats 14' and under are permitted. Sailboats are not permitted. Gasoline motors are not permitted. (*Electric motors of 4 HP or less are permitted.*) Trailers are not permitted (*except by individuals possessing a Refuge handicapped permit.*)

Parking:

Anglers should not block roadways or gates on the Refuge.

Cash Lake: Parking for fishing is located at the Cash Lake entrance (Gate 8) off of Rt. 197 (*South of Powder Mill Rd. Intersection – toward Bowie.*)

Note: Access to Cash Lake for fishing is via Rt. 197 only.

Anglers may not park in the National Wildlife Visitor Center parking lot.

Accessibility: The handicapped parking area, restrooms, pier, & boat launching ramp at Cash Lake are fully accessible. Lake Allen, New Marsh and south side of Bailey Bridge at North Tract are also accessible.

Be aware of State Fish Consumption Advisory due to mercury.

See Maryland Freshwater Sportfishing Guide or www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations.

Groups: Organized groups must request a group permit. The group leader must carry a copy of the permit and stay with the group at all times while fishing. All vehicles must display a copy of the permit in vehicle window.

