

Introduction



National Wildlife Refuges are the only federally managed lands where *Wildlife Comes First!* While our mission is to conserve and protect fish and wildlife and their habitats, we encourage wildlife-dependent recreation when it is compatible with the primary purposes of the refuge. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated six priority public uses on national wildlife refuges, which are: wildlife observation, interpretation, environmental education, photography, hunting, and fishing. The refuge is pleased to offer all six of these uses at the Wilna Unit of the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

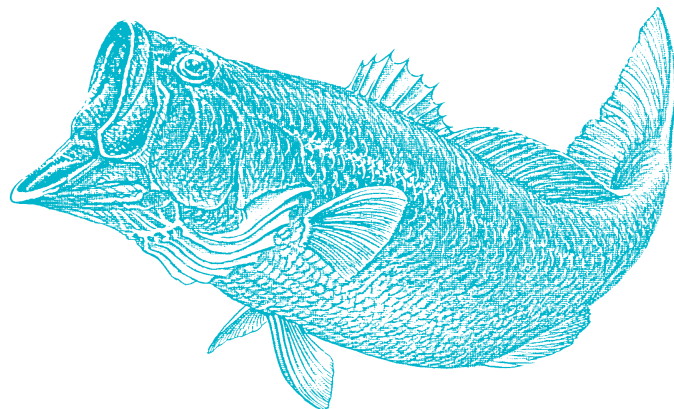
Fishing Regulations

In order to provide a safe, enjoyable experience for our visitors, while promoting a self-sustaining fishery and protecting other wildlife, the following regulations are in effect at Wilna Pond. These regulations will be strictly enforced, so please be an informed visitor.

Wilna Pond Fishing Regulations are as follows:

- Open daily, sunrise to sunset.
- During the period when the Wilna Unit is open for deer hunting, we will be closed to all other uses, including sport fishing.
- Pre-scheduled environmental education field trips have priority use of the Wilna Pond area, including the fishing pier. Anglers can check the field trip schedule by calling (804) 333-1470.
- All anglers age 16 and older must possess a valid Virginia State Freshwater Fishing License.

- We prohibit fishing by any means other than by use of one or more attended poles with hook and line attached.
- We prohibit the use of lead sinkers.
- We require catch-and-release fishing only for largemouth bass. Other finfish species may be taken in accordance with state regulations.
- We prohibit the take of any reptile, amphibian, or invertebrate species for use as bait or for any other purpose.
- We prohibit the use of live minnows as bait.
- We prohibit use of boats propelled by gasoline motors, sail, or mechanically operated paddle wheel.
- We permit bank fishing on the earthen dam, but we prohibit fishing from the aluminum catwalk.
- Please help us keep the Wilna Pond area unspoiled by being responsible - carry out what you carry in!
- If you see something that needs our attention, please contact the refuge office, 804/333 1470.



Largemouth Bass

Boating Laws

All Virginia boating laws apply to Wilna Pond

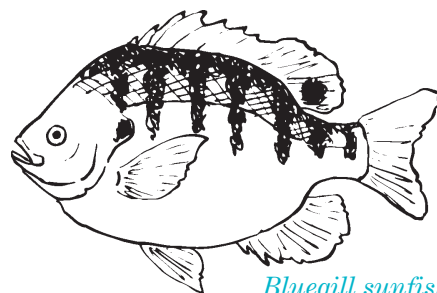
- All boats powered by an electric motor must possess a valid state registration.
- Each boat must have a personal flotation device (PFD) on board of proper size and fit for each person.
- A type 4 PFD is required for all boats regardless of length, except for canoes, kayaks, inflatable rafts, and boats registered in another state.
- A fire extinguisher is required on all boats that have permanent fuel tanks, closed storage compartments in which combustible or flammable materials are stowed, and double bottoms not sealed to the hull or that are not completely filled with flotation material.
- All boat safety equipment must be USCG approved, serviceable, and readily accessible.

Fish Species

Fish species known to be in Wilna Pond include:

- Largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*)
- Bluegill sunfish (*Lepomis macrochirus*)
- Flier (*Centrarchus macropterus*)
- Yellow bullhead catfish (*Ameiurus natalis*)
- American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*)

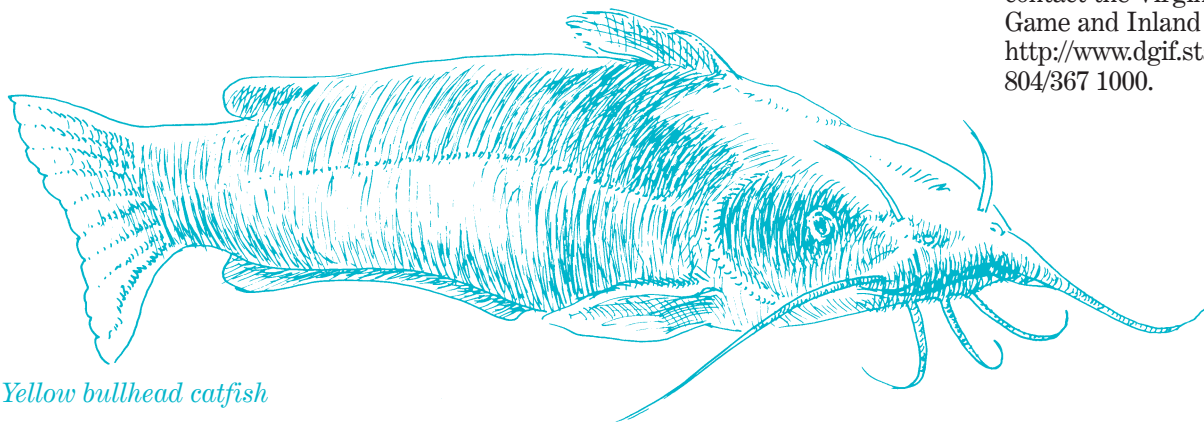
Largemouth bass and bluegill sunfish are numerically the most dominant sport fishes in the pond.



Bluegill sunfish

If you need more information, please contact refuge headquarters at 804/333 1470 during regular business hours (Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.), or e-mail the refuge at fw5rw_evrnwr@fws.gov

For assistance in finding other fishing opportunities in your area, please contact the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries at <http://www.dgif.state.va.us/> or 804/367 1000.



Yellow bullhead catfish

Directions to Wilna Pond

From Tappahannock:

- From US-17, take US-360 E (toward Warsaw). Follow US-360 E for 4.1 miles.
- Turn left onto Rt 624/Newland Rd. Follow Rt 624 for 4.2 miles.
- Turn left onto Strangeway/Rt 636. Follow Strangeway for 0.2 miles
- Turn right onto Sandy Lane/Rt 640. Follow Sandy Lane for 1.1 miles.
- Turn left into Rappahannock River Valley NWR.
- Follow the signs to Wilna Pond.

From Warsaw:

- Take US-360 W (toward Tappahannock).
- Turn right onto Rt 624/Newland Rd. Follow Rt 624 for 4.2 miles.
- Turn left onto Strangeway/Rt 636. Follow Strangeway for 0.2 miles.
- Turn right onto Sandy Lane/Rt 640. Follow Sandy Lane for 1.1 miles.
- Turn left into Rappahannock River Valley NWR.
- Follow the signs to Wilna Pond.

From Montross:

- Take VA-3 E to US-360 (Warsaw).
- Turn right onto US-360 W (toward Tappahannock). Follow US-360 W for 3.2 miles.
- Turn right onto Rt 624/Newland Rd. Follow Rt 624 for 4.2 miles.
- Turn left onto Strangeway/Rt 636. Follow Strangeway for 0.2 miles.
- Turn right onto Sandy Lane/Rt 640. Follow Sandy Lane for 1.1 miles.
- Turn left into Rappahannock River Valley NWR.
- Follow the signs to Wilna Pond.

From Fredericksburg:

- Take VA-3 E toward Warsaw.
- Turn right onto Rt 624/Flat Iron. (Flat Iron becomes Newland Road when you enter Richmond County).
- Follow Rt 624 for 10.9 miles.
- Turn right onto Sandy Lane. Follow Sandy Lane for 1.2 miles.
- Turn right into Rappahannock River Valley NWR.
- Follow the signs to Wilna Pond.

From Richmond:

- Take US-360 E towards Mechanicsville. Follow US-360 E to Tappahannock.
- Turn left onto US-360 E/US-17 N. Follow US-360 E/US-17 N for 2.5 miles.
- Turn right (6th traffic light) onto US-360 E. Follow US-360 E for 4.1 miles.
- Turn left onto Rt 624/Newland Rd. Follow Rt 624 for 4.2 miles.
- Turn left onto Strangeway/Rt 636. Follow Strangeway for 0.2 miles
- Turn right onto Sandy Lane/Rt 640. Follow Sandy Lane for 1.1 miles.
- Turn left into Rappahannock River Valley NWR.
- Follow the signs to Wilna Pond.

American eel

