

# Anahuac

## *National Wildlife Refuge*

### *Waterfowl Hunting Regulations 2008–2009*



#### **Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge Waterfowl Hunting Brochure 2008–2009**

When signed and in your possession, this hunt brochure will serve as your general permit for all refuge hunts this year. (***Fee Area also requires a Fee Area Hunt Permit.***) It acknowledges your understanding of the refuge regulations contained in this brochure.

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Signature of Hunter

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Date

*Permits are required for all hunters. This permit is valid only when signed above and must be carried at all times while on the Refuge. Permits are not transferable.*

## General Provisions

The regulations listed below are a supplement to the general regulations set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, which govern activities on National Wildlife Refuges. Hunting will be in accordance with all applicable federal and state regulations.

## General Hunting Regulations

Public hunting of ducks, geese, and coots on Anahuac NWR is permitted only in areas designated by signs as open to hunting. Hunters need to check area maps for location of hunting units and regulations governing hunting on them.

All persons entering a hunt area must be legally licensed to hunt waterfowl.

Hunters 17 and younger must be under the direct supervision of an adult age 18 or older to hunt the refuge. Hunt areas will be open for the State-designated Youth Season for ducks and coots. To participate, hunters must be 15 years of age or younger and accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age. Adults may not hunt during the special Youth Season.

Hunters using the Refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, and the contents of hunting equipment, containers, vehicles and watercraft by Refuge and State law enforcement officers.

All shotguns must be unloaded and encased while in transit on the refuge. No other firearms are allowed (i.e. pistols, revolvers, rifles). Hunters must be in possession **only** of shells containing approved non-toxic shot.

Hunters may enter the refuge units no earlier than 4:00 am. Hunting starts at legal shooting time and closes at (12:00) noon. Hunters must be off the refuge by 12:30 pm. *Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.*

Vehicle travel is permitted on designated roads and parking areas only. Do not block roads or gates at any time. No hunting from roads.

On inland waters of Refuge hunt areas open to motorized boats, the operation of motorized boats is restricted to lakes, ponds, ditches and other waterways. The operation of motorized boats on or through emergent wetland vegetation is prohibited. We restrict the use of boats powered by air-cooled or radiator-cooled engines to those powered by a single engine of 25 hp or less and utilizing a propeller 9 inches in diameter or less.

Airboats, marsh buggies, ATVs, and personal watercraft are prohibited.

Portable blinds or temporary native vegetation blinds are permitted. All blinds must be removed from the refuge daily. The minimum distance between hunt parties is 200 yards. Hunters must stay a minimum of 200 yards from accessible hunt blind.

All decoys, spent shells, marsh chairs, and other equipment must be removed from the refuge daily. Use of plastic flagging, reflectors, reflective tape, or cane (phragmites) is prohibited on the refuge.

Be a sportsman and respect the rights of other hunters afield.

Skybusters flare game, leave cripples and disrupt other hunters. Allowing birds to decoy increases your hunting success. Use of retriever dogs is encouraged for conservation of downed birds, however dogs must be under the control of handlers at all times.

Use, possession, or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages while hunting, accessing or returning from the field is prohibited. Campfires are prohibited.

Some of the marsh is dangerously boggy. Alligators, venomous snakes, mosquitoes and fire ants live in the marsh. We recommend against going into the marsh alone until you are thoroughly familiar with the hazards.

## **East Unit Hunt Area**

### *Specific Hunt Regulations*

Location—See map on reverse.

Fee Area

*(Fee Area Hunt Permit required.)*

\$10.00 day use or \$40.00 annual permit user fee. No user fee for hunters under 16 years of age. The daily use permit, annual permit, and/or goose or duck hunt area permit (if applicable) must be presented before entering the East Unit or upon request. Permits will be available the morning of the hunt prior to entry. A limited number of parties will be allowed to access the East Unit by vehicle.

### *Hunt Days*

Special Teal Season

*Area Closed*

Regular Waterfowl Season

Saturday, Sunday, and Tuesday

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Light Goose Conservation Order

If the light goose conservation order is in effect during 2009, the East Unit will be open Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday. This season closes for the Refuge on February 22, 2009.

Consult Refuge Manager for details.

- Entry Time* Permits will be issued beginning at 4:00 a.m. As a courtesy to others, hunters must enter the refuge no later than 1/2-hour before legal shooting time.
- Special Access* Hunters 16 and over accessing the East Unit by motorized boat from Jackson Ditch or East Bay Bayou will be required to obtain an Anahuac NWR annual permit. Access to the East Unit Reservoirs from Onion Bayou via boat is prohibited. Use of motorized boats is prohibited on the East Unit except ponds which can be accessed from Jackson Ditch. Motorized boats are prohibited from launching from the East Unit.
- When accessing the East Unit from a vehicle, all hunters must enter and check-in and check-out through the check station off of FM 1985. All hunters entering the East Unit through the check station will designate a hunt area on a first-come, first-serve basis (duck hunt areas will be assigned through a random drawing). Hunters will be required to remain in assigned area for that day's hunt.
- Goose Hunt Area* Spaced hunt areas are located in the agricultural fields on the north portion of the East Unit hunting area. Spaced hunt areas are designated by markers. Permits will be given out the morning of the hunt on a first come-first serve basis. Hunters must have goose decoys to hunt the goose hunt area. A minimum of two and a maximum of six persons are allowed per permit (spaced hunt areas). All spaced hunt area hunters must accompany a valid permit holder. Individuals in each group must set up and stay in their permitted area and stay within 50 feet of each other during the hunt unless retrieving geese.
- Duck Hunt Area* Duck hunt area locations will be identified with a post marker. Hunters must set up within 50 yards of the post marker and must stay within 50 feet of any other party member unless retrieving waterfowl. Goose hunting is allowed. Permits will be made available the day of the hunt via random drawing. A minimum of two and a maximum of six persons are allowed per permit (spaced hunt areas).
- Accessible Hunt Blind* Available to hunters with disabilities possessing a valid disabled person placard or license plate. First come-first serve. A maximum of three persons permitted in blind. For more information, call the Refuge office.

## **Pace Tract**

### *Specific Hunt*

### *Regulations*

### *Hunt Days*

Location—See map on reverse.

Non-Fee Area

Special Teal Season – Open daily

Regular Waterfowl Season – Open daily

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Light Goose Conservation Order

If the light goose conservation order is in effect during 2009, the Pace Tract will be open daily through February 22, 2009.

Consult Refuge Manager for details.

4:00 am (*Access to the interior of the unit from bayous is prohibited before 4:00 am*).

Access by boat only. All hunters using the Oyster Bayou Boat Ramp must register at the main entrance.

### *Entry Time*

### *Special Access*

## **Middleton Tract**

### *Specific Hunt*

### *Regulations*

### *Hunt Days*

Location —Middleton Tract is located between East Bay Bayou and SH 124. See map on reverse for open areas.

Non-Fee Area

Special Teal Season—Open Daily

Regular Waterfowl Season

Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Light Goose Conservation Order

If the light goose conservation order is in effect during 2009, the Middleton Tract will be open daily through February 22, 2009.

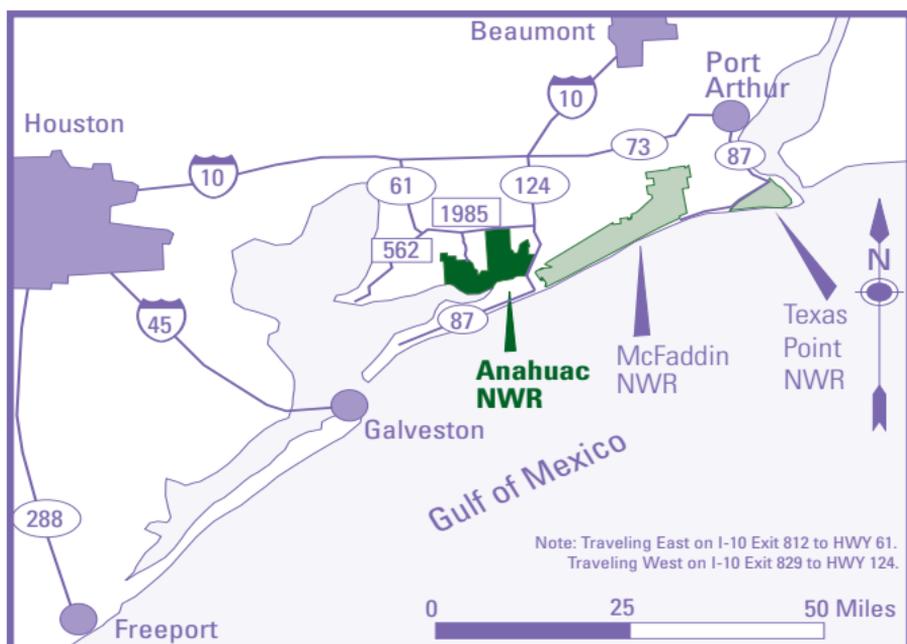
Consult Refuge Manager for details.

4:00 am

Primary access by boat. Motorized boats with motors exceeding 25 hp are prohibited in inland waterways. Portages are necessary to access interior waterways. Two boat rollers are located on East Bay Bayou for access. Walk-in access from feeder road off of SH 124 is difficult.

### *Entry Time*

### *Special Access*



## Signs and Boundaries

The signs below apply to the areas behind the signs. Please respect all refuge signs whenever you see them as you travel throughout the refuge.



**National Wildlife Refuge.** This sign marks the boundary of the refuge. Consult refuge management for authorized activities.



**Area Closed.** Certain areas of the refuge are closed to visitors for management purposes. Unauthorized entry beyond this sign is prohibited.



**No Hunting Zone.** This sign marks the boundary of no hunting areas on the refuge. All hunting is prohibited beyond this sign.



**Public Hunting Area.** This sign marks the boundaries of the waterfowl hunting areas.



**Waterfowl Hunting Only.** This sign marks the boundaries of the waterfowl hunting areas.

## For Further Information

Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge  
P.O. Box 278

Anahuac, Texas 77514

409/267-3337

409/296-2710 Check Station

409/267-4314 Fax

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/texas/anahuac>

**July 2008**