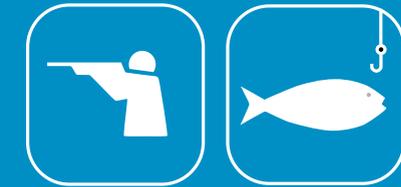


Big Branch Marsh

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2013-2014



Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge General Fishing and Hunting 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 2013 - 2014 Refuge hunts.

The refuge is closed at night, 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 hunter age, adult supervision age, and hunter education requirements are defined by state regulation. Youths under the age of 16 must be supervised by an adult.

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.

Deer hunters hunting from concealed blinds must display a minimal of 400 sq. inches of hunter-orange above or around their blinds which is visible from 360 degrees.

Quail, woodcock, squirrel and rabbit hunters (during special dog seasons) are required to wear a minimum of a hunters orange cap.

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

Prohibited Activities

- Possession of buckshot, lead shot, slugs, rifles or rifle ammunition larger than .17 or .22 cal is prohibited while hunting.
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.
- All commercial hunting activities including guiding, outfitting, lodging and club membership or participating in such activities are prohibited.
- Hunting from a permanent tree stand, or from a tree in which a metal object (such as nails, spikes, screws) has been driven is prohibited.
- Hunting in refuge designated closed areas is prohibited.
- The possession of toxic shot is prohibited during all Refuge hunts.
- Target shooting on the Refuge is prohibited.
- Air-thrust boats, aircraft, mud boats and air cooled propulsion engines are prohibited on the Refuge.
- 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 is prohibited on the refuge.
- Cutting, removing or damaging trees and other live plant matter is prohibited.

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

May 2013



Big Branch Marsh Refuge Hunting Permit 2013-2014

When signed and carried, this serves as your permit for all refuge hunts and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein. Expires June 30, 2014.

Signature (permits are not transferable)

- The use or possession of any type of material used as flagging or trail markers, except reflective tacks is prohibited.
- Horses and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are prohibited.
- Remote cameras are prohibited, including trail cameras.
- The use of deer decoys is prohibited.
- Hunting or the discharge of firearms within 150 feet from the centerline of roads open to vehicular travel, Boy Scout Road, any maintained trails or from any residence is prohibited.
- Camping is prohibited.
- No tree stands are allowed on trees painted with white bands.

Specific Sport Fishing Regulations

Recreational fishing is 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 8 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.

Night fishing, crabbing, and crawfishing are permitted from the bank and pier on Lake Road.

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. Oct. 1, 2013 - Jan. 31, 2014	Deer of either sex may be taken in accordance with State regulations and season limits. Dogs and driving deer are prohibited. All State-approved archery equipment is allowed.
Feral Hogs	Only during State Deer Archery Season	Hogs may only be taken with State-approved archery equipment. Dogs and driving deer are prohibited.
Squirrel and Rabbit	State season and regulations apply. Oct. 5, 2013 - Feb. 28, 2014	Shotguns: non-toxic shot only, shot size must be #4 or smaller. Dogs may be used only after the close of the State archery deer season and until the end of February. Closed to hunting during the State Spring squirrel Season. Only Rimfire rifles size .22 or .17 are permitted.
Waterfowl & 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. Temporary blinds only, all blinds and decoys must be removed by 1 pm. Retrievers are allowed. 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. Recognized breeds of setter/retriever are allowed. 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.