

Mattamuskeet Late Season Waterfowl Hunt - Self-Orientation

Welcome to Mattamuskeet NWR! As this is a refuge hunt, you are subject to federal and state regulations. People possessing, transporting or carrying firearms on Refuges must comply with State and local laws. You may only discharge firearms in accordance with refuge regulations.

Safety is our #1 priority!

Dangers may include:

- Darkness - use a flashlight or head lamp when going to the blind.
- Watch for stumps, cypress knees, limbs, as well as mucky paths going to the blinds.
- Chest waders are recommended and required to reach some blinds.
- You may encounter slick decks on all the blinds.
- Guns **MUST** be unloaded going to and returning from blinds.
- Respect all speed limit signs on the refuge.
- Prohibited activities include hunting over bait, blocking roads & trails, littering, open fires, taking wildlife or plants, trapping, using or possessing alcoholic beverages

Regulations

- Always keep your hunting permit with you.
- Shooting times are half an hour before sunrise to **12:00 noon**.
- **You must be out of the hunt area by 1:00 PM.**
- Check out is mandatory, even if you have no birds to report. See attendant or complete Check-Out Card and place in box.
- **You must check back in on the 2nd day of the hunt** and pay the \$15.00 user fee. Failure to check in will result in your blind being issued to a stand-by hunter.
- Waterfowl may only be taken with shotguns and using only approved non-toxic shot (Steel, bismuth-tin, tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-matrix or tin).
- Only 30 shells per hunter per day are allowed.
- No more than three people in a blind (only licensed hunters who have paid fee).
- For the youth hunt, up to two adults and two youth hunters are allowed per blind.
- NO switching blinds once permit is issued.
- Stand-by permits are only good for that day.
- No shooting from outside the blind unless you are retrieving a crippled bird. No shooting on or across East Main Road (the road used to access the hunt area).
- Retrieve all spent shells and trash in and around the blind at the end of your hunt.
- Decoys may only be put out on the morning of the hunt and must be removed daily.
- The use of retrieving dogs is permitted, but dogs must always be under voice command. **(See water quality advisory information below regarding your pet's health).**

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Parking and Access

- After checking in, please park trailers and extra vehicles in the circle drive in front of Mattamuskeet Lodge. Trailers are not allowed in the hunt area due to limited space.
- Follow signs directing you to the hunting area and to each parking area and blind. Parking areas are marked by blind number.
- Trails have been made to all blinds. Follow directional arrows.
- Some trails are very difficult (mucky) to walk through. If you have limitations, please discuss with the attendant.
- Do not block any road or trail. Park only in areas designated by parking signs.
- NO driving on any dikes/levees except for the road to blind 1.
- The gate to the hunt area at the entrance to East Main Road will be closed after all parties are checked in. Always shut the gate behind you when exiting/re-entering.
- Non-hunters are not allowed in the closed hunting area.
- Please notify Law Enforcement of unauthorized activity at: 1-844-FWS-TIPS (397-8477).

Other

- To avoid crippling and misidentification, please do not shoot birds that are too far away.
- Avoid shooting birds you cannot identify! This includes birds like grebes and cormorants.
- Cyanobacteria, also called blue-green algae, is present in Lake Mattamuskeet. Though most active during months of higher water temperatures, cyanobacteria can produce cyanotoxins year-round. Ingestion of water containing cyanotoxins can cause serious illness in humans and pets. Additionally, contact with water containing cyanotoxins can result in skin irritation. If you come in contact with the lake water, rinse off with fresh water as soon as possible afterward. Contact your doctor if you experience sudden or unexplained illness. If retrieving dogs swim in the lake, rinse them off as soon as possible and do not let them lick the water off their fur. Contact your veterinarian if your animal experiences sudden or unexplained illness.
- For questions or non-emergencies, you may call the refuge office at 252-926-4021. In case of emergency, please call 911.

2023-2024 Waterfowl Bag Limits

6 ducks with no more than:

- 3 wood ducks
- 4 mallards; only 2 hen mallards
- 2 redheads
- 2 canvasbacks
- 2 black ducks
- 1 pintail
- 1 mottled duck
- 1 fulvous whistling duck
- Prior to January 9 the scaup limit is 1, on January 9 and after it is 2.
- Season is closed on harlequin ducks
- 5 mergansers (only 2 hooded)
- 15 coots
- 1 tundra swan with permit only
- 2 Canada geese (after December 28)
- 25 light geese (snows and Ross')
- 1 brant (after December 28)

Self-Orientation Signature Page

To receive a permit for the Mattamuskeet NWR late season waterfowl hunt, this page must be signed by all participants and turned in during check-in each morning of the hunt. Please read all the Self-Orientation information then sign below.

I have read and understand these Refuge regulations and guidelines.

Participant #1: _____
Signature Date

Participant #2: _____
Signature Date

Participant #3: _____
Signature Date

Participant #4:
(youth hunt only) _____
Signature Date