

Santee National Wildlife Refuge Clarendon County, SC

Santee National Wildlife Refuge is one of 568 National Wildlife Refuges in the U.S. and its territories. The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the U.S. for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans. Santee National Wildlife Refuge was originally established in 1941 as a migratory bird sanctuary. Formed by the confluence of the Congaree and Wateree rivers, Lake Marion is a man-made lake and part of the Santee-Cooper reservoir network that also includes Lake Moultrie. Lake Marion drains into the Santee River and Lake Moultrie drains into the Santee and Cooper rivers.

Considered an outstanding recreational use of renewable natural resources and national pastime, fishing and five other wildlife-oriented activities are allowed on National Wildlife Refuges when it is determined compatible with the purposes for which the refuge was established.

Fishing is permitted on designated areas of the refuge subject to the regulations listed below, which are also posted as the general regulations as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 32.60. Fishing is permitted subject to all State regulations and to the following conditions:

General Fishing Regulations

A valid State fishing license and a signed refuge fishing permit must be in each fisherman's possession while fishing on the refuge. All recreational fishing boat operators are only required to have one refuge fishing permit per boat. Boat operators are responsible for all passengers understanding and following the rules and regulations of the refuge. The self-issuing refuge fishing permit is free and assures you have read and understand Santee NWR's fishing regulations.

Public fishing on the Santee National Wildlife Refuge is permitted on all four refuge units (approx. 13,000 acres) as shown on the reverse map. Open waters of Lake Marion within refuge boundaries are open for fishing 24 hours a day, except in areas posted as "Closed Areas" or closed for migratory bird management, as shown on this map. We only allow fishing on the inland ponds during times the refuge units are open for general public access or as posted.

Cantey Bay (Bluff Unit), Black Bottom (Cuddo Unit), Savannah Branch (Pine Island Unit), and refuge ponds and impoundments are only open to public access including boat and fishing activity from March 1 through October 31.

Areas open to fishing include the waters of Lake Marion and several freshwater ponds and canals. Access for many of these areas is limited to foot or bicycle travel only. Please refer to the map on the reverse for these designations.

Littering, camping and/or overnight parking, open fires, swimming or wading, collection-searching for or taking of any items of antiquity, and overnight mooring of boats are prohibited. Pets are only allowed in designated areas and must remain on a leash or in your vehicle/vessel.

We prohibit fishing or boating within 100 feet (30 meters) of any nesting birds or bird rookeries within refuge boundaries.

We prohibit commercial fishing, air-thrust boats, hovercraft, airboats, and personal watercraft within the waters and boundary of the refuge. No boats allowed on inland ponds except canoes/kayaks on the designated canoe trails on the Cuddo and Pine Island Units.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Refuge Headquarters between the hours of 8 am - 4 pm, Tuesday through Friday; 803/478 2217. To report a law enforcement violation, call 1-800/922 5431 for Operation Game Thief.

Common fish species caught at Santee National Wildlife Refuge:

Bass species

Striped Bass (*Morone saxatilis*)
White Bass (*Morone chrysops*)
Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*)

Bream species

Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker) (*Lepomis microlophus*)
Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*)
Green Sunfish (*Lepomis cyanellus*)
Black Crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*)
White Crappie (*Pomoxis annularis*)

Catfish species

Blue (*Ictalurus furcatus*)
Channel (*Ictalurus punctatus*)
Flathead (*Pylodictis olivaris*)

Santee

National Wildlife Refuge Fishing Regulations and Permit



Fishing Permit

I have read and understand the regulations governing fishing on Santee National Wildlife Refuge.

Fisherman's signature

This permit must be in your possession while fishing and is valid only when signed by the fisherman.

Date signed: _____

Take pride in your refuge!

Help keep the refuge clean and litter free.

Littering violations could result in loss of fishing privileges.



Invasive Species

Crested floating heart (*Nymphoides cristata*), water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), alligatorweed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), water primrose (*Ludwigia uruguayensis*) and giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) are aquatic invasive plants the refuge is currently managing, with the hopes of slowing down the spread of these species.

Take the following precautions:

- Inspect and clean your boat, trailer, vehicle, waders, clothing, and equipment prior to leaving your fishing area. Remove all vegetation, seeds and mud.
- Don't use non-native live bait that could become invasive.
- Drain all water from your boat, motor, bilge, and livewells before leaving.
- If possible, rinse or dry your boat when leaving a water body.

Learn how to identify invasive species and how to avoid transferring them. Visit www.protectyourwaters.net to learn more.

Never Litter on a National Wildlife Refuge

In the state of South Carolina, you may be charged up to \$1000 fine for littering. Help the refuge and the whole state remain a clean and healthy environment for people and the animals that live here. Make sure that you pack out any trash you have when you leave the refuge and dispose of it properly. **Areas of the refuge may be closed to fishing if litter becomes a problem.**

For more information about litter violation laws and what you can do to help the state of South Carolina, visit www.palmettopride.org

- Animals can get entangled in debris (fishing line, plastic bags) in the water, making it difficult to swim or breathe.

Please use the monofilament recycling bins located throughout the refuge.

- Small mammals can get trapped in containers left on the ground.
- Animals may unknowingly ingest plastic or other harmful objects.

For more information, contact the Santee National Wildlife Refuge headquarters at 803/478 2217 or visit our website at www.fws.gov/refuge/santee.

