



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Alligator River

National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting Regulations & Permit 2023-2024



This is a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.

Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 1969
Manteo, NC 27954
252/473 1131
email: alligatorriver@fws.gov
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/alligator-river>

To report wildlife violations, call 1/800/662 7137

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<https://www.fws.gov>
September 2023

Refuge Hunting Permit Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge

Name _____
(please print)

I have read and understand the refuge hunting regulations contained in this leaflet.

Signed: _____
Date: _____

This permit must be signed, dated and carried on your person and is only valid from September 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024.

General Information

Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR/Refuge) contains approximately 160,000 acres, most of which are open to hunting. There are more than 150 miles of old logging roads that provide hunting access, some for vehicles and some on foot. Visitors should use caution, especially when venturing into the more remote areas of the refuge with only a two-wheel drive vehicle. In the center of the refuge is the Dare County Range, a 46,000-acre military practice area owned by the U.S. Air Force and used by both the Air Force and the U.S. Navy. The Range is a part of the North Carolina Gamelands Program and governed by Gamelands rules and regulations (<http://www.ncwildlife.org>). Especially in the areas on or adjacent to the Dare Range, road conditions may be unpredictable.

For newcomers to the Refuge, the impenetrable vegetation and remoteness often catch them unaware. First time users should consult with a Refuge staff member or another hunter before venturing off the beaten path.

White-tailed deer is the primary species hunted. The use of chase dogs is permitted. About half the refuge is open to this type of hunting. Hunting small game and waterfowl is also permitted; however, the majority of waterfowl hunting occurs on the sounds and rivers surrounding the Refuge.

Regulations

All general refuge regulations apply, unless specifically addressed in this leaflet. Restrictions and designations on the map in this leaflet also apply. Public hunting is permitted in accordance with all state laws, county codes, Title 50 - Code of Federal Regulations, and the following Refuge regulations:

Permits are required for all hunts. Your permit is on the front of this brochure.

The Refuge is open daylight hours only. Hunter access is allowed from one hour before until one hour after legal hunting hours. Legal hunting hours for raccoons and opossums are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, unless authorized by Refuge Special Use Permit.

Possession of firearms is permitted in accordance with State law.

When taking any game animal or bird with a shotgun, federally approved, non-toxic shot must be used (except buckshot or slugs for white-tailed deer). Possessing lead shot in the field is prohibited, except when engaged in deer hunting.

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

The taking or possession of bear, turkey, bobcat, any furbearer, or any part thereof, is prohibited, except when transporting same along an NC State road or US highway. Game legally taken on the Dare Range must be transported to U.S. Highway 264 or 64 by the most direct route possible.

Hyde County portions of the Refuge are closed to white-tailed deer hunting during open seasons on black bear on adjacent lands.

Disturbing, molesting or interfering with any person engaged in the pursuit of an authorized activity on the Refuge is prohibited.



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Vehicular access is restricted to licensed vehicles on designated roads (see map). The use of horses for any hunting activity is prohibited.

Baiting or feeding wildlife; hunting with the aid of bait; and use of electronic calls to attract wildlife are prohibited.

The use of trail cameras and drones is prohibited.

Construction or use of permanent blinds, platforms, and/or ladders is prohibited. Hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been inserted is prohibited.

Camping, fires, littering, target practice, and commercial guiding are prohibited.

Hunters should be aware that some areas may be temporarily closed to hunting. These areas will be clearly marked with appropriate signs.

Farming Area

Farming area is closed to waterfowl and coot hunting. The farming areas are open to deer, small game, snipe, dove and woodcock, in accordance with State and Refuge regulations.

Laurel Bay Unit

Hunting in impoundments and vehicular access to the farming area west of Buffalo City Road are allowed only during September, October, and February.

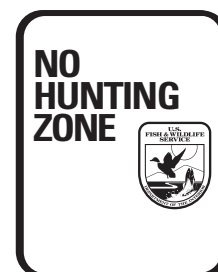
Please respect the following signs:



This sign denotes the boundary of the Refuge.



Area closed and area seasonally closed signs. These signs mean the area behind the sign is closed to all entry either year-round or seasonally. Do not enter the area behind this sign for any reason.



This sign marks areas closed to hunting. Entry for other authorized activities generally is permitted.

Twiford Unit

The farming areas east of Buffalo City Road and west of Milltail Road are open to hunting and vehicles only during September and October and closed to all entry from November 1 to February 29.

Upper Creef Unit

The farming areas east of Milltail Road and north of Link road are closed to all entry from September 1 to February 29.

Lower Creef Unit

The farming area between Link and Grouse Roads is open to hunting during September and October. Starting in November, the area is open only to small game, dove, snipe, and woodcock hunting in accordance with State and Refuge regulations.

Use of Dogs

The use of dogs is restricted to designated areas (see map). All dogs must be confined or leashed and under owner control when not engaged in hunting.

Hunters may walk on closed roads in the farming area or on the roads in the "no dog hunting" area to retrieve their stray hunting dogs only until 11 pm.

Farming units are open to deer hunting with chase dogs only during October in accordance with state regulations and unless posted as closed.

The training of chase dogs is permitted only during modern gun deer season where use of chase dogs is allowed.

Wildlife Drive

Hunters are reminded that the Refuge Wildlife Drive (see map) is adjacent to several hunting areas and is a popular attraction to many. Please be aware of the Wildlife Drive and be cautious and courteous when hunting in areas shared with other refuge visitors.

Youth Hunting

Refuge youth hunting regulations have been changed to match the State. Remember both State and Federal regulations apply to all refuge hunts. Be sure to check State Regulations at <http://www.ncwildlife.org>

Game Animals

Only the following species may be hunted: ducks, geese, tundra swan, coot, quail, mourning dove, snipe, woodcock, rabbits, squirrel, opossum, raccoon, and white-tailed deer in accordance to Federal, State, and local regulations.

If you have questions as to the advisability or legality of any activity, consult the Refuge Manager before participating in that activity.

Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities

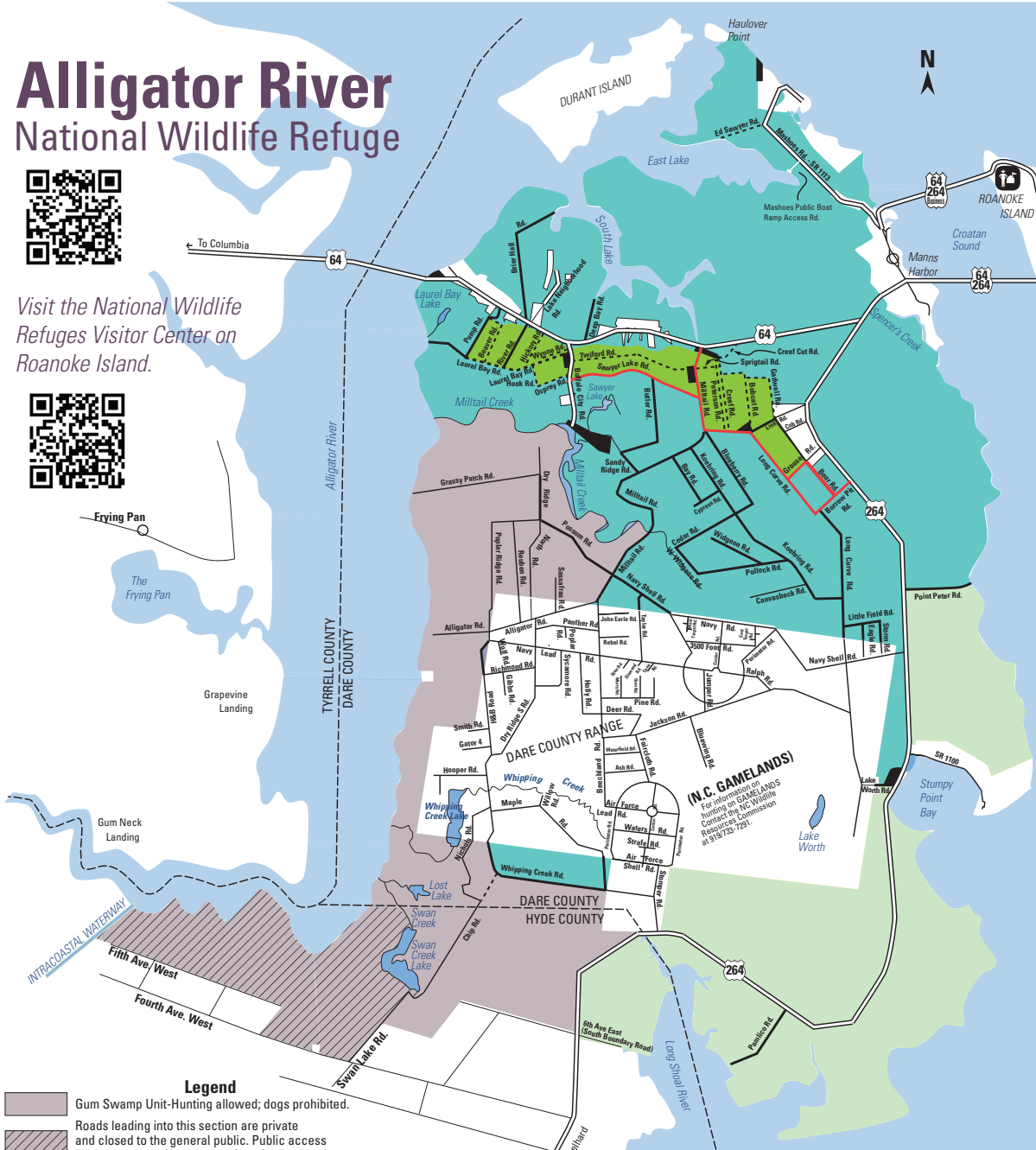
Hunting and fishing opportunities for individuals with disabilities are available on Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge. Persons with disabilities may contact the Refuge office prior to their arrival if special arrangements are needed.



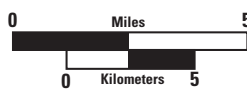
Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge



Visit the National Wildlife Refuges Visitor Center on Roanoke Island.



- Legend**
- Gum Swamp Unit-Hunting allowed; dogs prohibited.
 - Roads leading into this section are private and closed to the general public. Public access is by water only. (Also part of Gum Swamp Unit)
 - Hunting allowed; the use of dogs is restricted to bird hunting with retrieving dogs.
 - Hunting with dogs allowed.
 - Farming Area
 - Closed year round to waterfowl hunting. See text for specific openings.
 - No Hunting-Safety/Resource Management Zone.
 - State Roads or U.S. highways
 - Refuge Roads open to motorized vehicles.
 - Refuge Roads open seasonally to motorized vehicles.
 - Refuge Roads closed to motorized vehicles.
 - Public or private roads, as indicated by signs. (Landowner permission is required to drive on private roads.)
 - Non-Refuge or private lands
 - Wildlife Drive
 - Visitor Center



NOTICE: Red wolves roam free on Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge

Please Report Sightings: 252-475-8259

The maximum penalty for harassing, harming, taking, possessing, or attempting to harass, harm, or take a red wolf is 1 year in jail, \$100,000 fine, or both.

