



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Fishing and Crabbing

## Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge Regulations 2021–2022

### Welcome

Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge is over 37,000 acres of coastal marsh. It provides a home for an abundance of wildlife, protecting our wild heritage for you to enjoy for generations to come.

Enjoy some of the best wade-fishing in Texas for speckled trout, redfish, and southern flounder on the refuge shorelines of East Galveston Bay.

Fishing platforms and a bridge on the Skillern Tract offer fishing opportunities along East Bay Bayou, where anglers can find freshwater species such as crappie, largemouth bass, gar, bowfin, channel catfish, and blue catfish.

### Accessibility Information

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. For more information please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eo/public-civil-rights>.

### Safety

Fire ants, snakes, and biting insects make their home here on the refuge. Do not feed, harass, or approach alligators. If an alligator is interested in your catch, cut the line and move away. There are limited services on the refuge, so please come prepared for all contingencies.

### Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 278/ 4017 FM 563

Anahuac, TX 77514

409-267-3337 Office

409-267-4314 Fax

[www.fws.gov/refuge/anahuac](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/anahuac)

### August 2021

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



### Access

Access hours follow the general regulations and current conditions of the refuge. The refuge manager may close all or part of the fishing and crabbing area without advance notice to safeguard refuge resources or for safety reasons.

Fishing and crabbing is permitted on shoreline areas on East Galveston Bay; along West Line Road to the southern end of Shoveler Pond; along the canal from Oyster Bayou boat ramp to the southwest corner of Shoveler Pond; along the area of Crab Corner on Frozen Point Road; along the lengths of Oyster Bayou, East Bay Bayou, and along the Gulf of Mexico. Please see map for more detail.

24-hour access is permitted only for individuals actively fishing along the East Bay shoreline, parking areas on Frozen Point Road, and at the East Bay Boat Ramp. All other permitted fishing locations abide by refuge hours.

### Boats

Motorized boats may be launched at the East Bay Boat Ramp and at the Oyster Bayou Boat Ramp. Non-motorized boats may be launched only along East Bay Bayou and along the shoreline of East Galveston Bay.

### Fishing and Crabbing Regulations

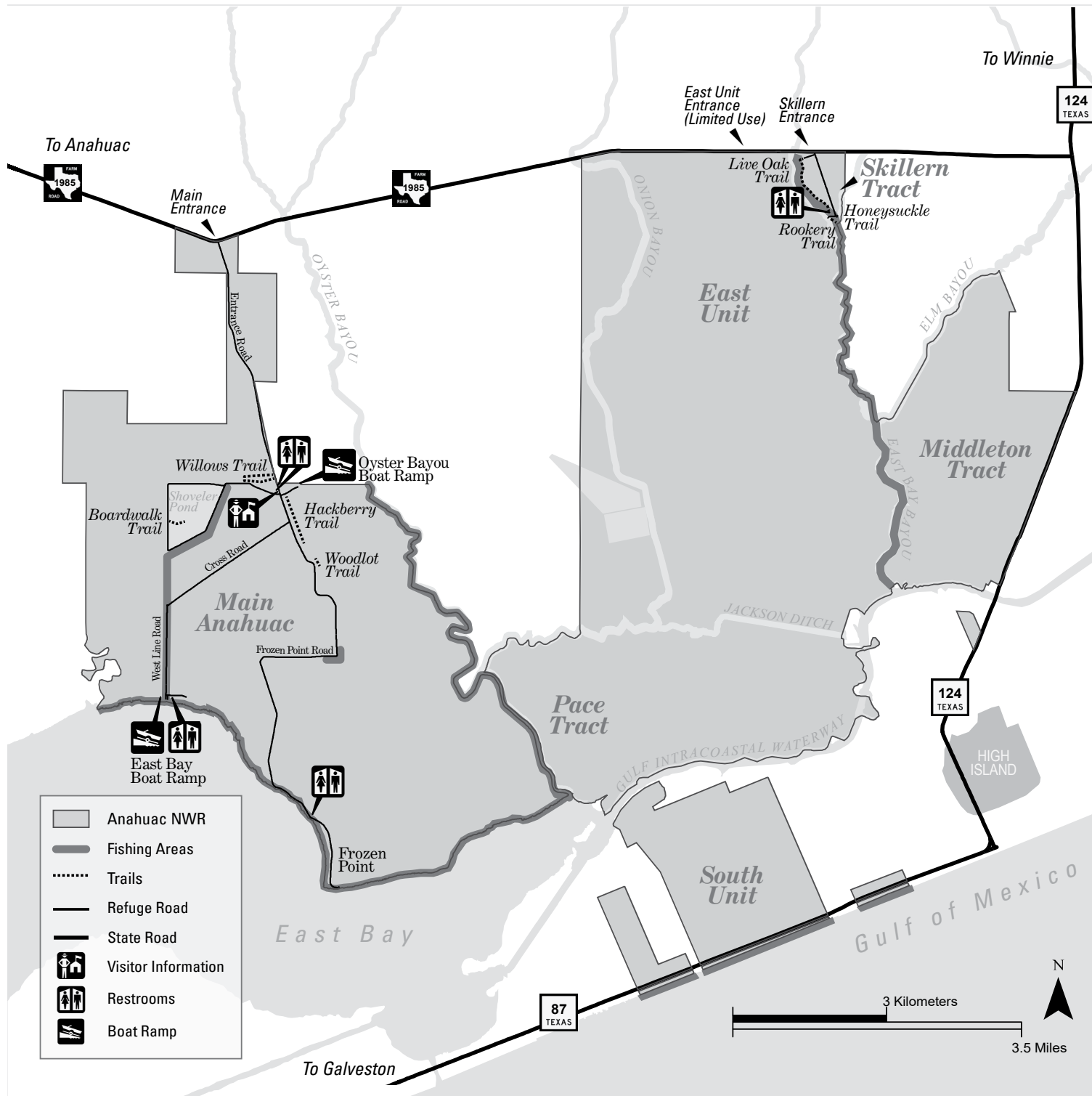
Fishing regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Fishing is permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Fishing will be in accordance with applicable State of Texas regulations in addition to the conditions stated below. Please see <https://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/> for state regulations.\*Note: Inland waters are defined as waterways bordered on both sides by refuge property.

- A Texas saltwater fishing license is required to fish and to crab.
- Fishing and crabbing are only allowed by pole and line, rod and reel, or handheld line methods.
- Cast-netting is only allowed for baitfish for personal use along waterways open to the public and along public roads.
- We allow wade-fishing along East Galveston Bay and the Gulf of Mexico.
- Non-hunting related boating and canoeing is allowed in the navigable waters of Oyster Bayou and East Bay Bayou.
- Visitors must maintain a clean and neat area. Trash must be kept inside trash receptacles or containers.
- By law, recreational activities on national wildlife refuges are prohibited unless expressly permitted.

### Prohibited Activities (Continued on next page)

- Any method of fishing and crabbing not expressly allowed on the refuge, including: trotlines, set lines, jug lines, limb lines, bowfishing, gigging, and spearing, crab traps, umbrella nets, ring nets, and minnow traps.

*Continued on next page*



### Prohibited Activities (Continued)

- Fishing from or mooring to water control structures, boardwalks, bridges, or any man-made structures.
- Attaching handheld lines to any structure, vegetation, debris, trash, or other property not owned by the visitor.
- Shrimping. The refuge is an important shrimp nursery area.
- Harvesting turtles, frogs, or their eggs.
- Driving off of designated roads, over vegetated surfaces, or on dunes.
- Operation of motorized boats on or through emergent wetland vegetation and mudflats.
- Non-hunting related boating on inland waters\* of the refuge to include Pace Tract, East Unit, and Middleton Tract.
- Boating on inland waters\* with electric or carbureted motors greater than 25 HP.
- Boating on inland waters\* with air-cooled or radiator-cooled engines with a propeller larger than 9-inches in diameter.
- The use of airboats with either greater than 10 HP and/or a drive propeller greater than 48-inches.
- The use of marsh buggies, OHVs, and personal watercraft.
- Charcoal-based fires, wood-based fires, glass containers, drone-usage.
- Spotighting, except while fishing on the shoreline of East Bay.
- Stopping, parking, or leaving any vehicle (whether attended or unattended) upon any road or trail so as to obstruct the free movement of other vehicles.