



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations

Welcome

The Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge, 14,494 acres, was established in 1964.

The refuge is administered by Mattamuskeet NWR.

Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge
85 Mattamuskeet Road
Swan Quarter, NC 27885

www.fws.gov/refuge/mattamuskeet

252-926-4021

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1-800-344-WILD

January 2022

Emergency Contact Numbers

Carteret County Sheriff's Office: 252-504-4800 or (911)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: 252-926-4021

NC Wildlife Resources Commission: 1-800-662-7137

Waterfowl hunting is allowed on Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge. No other hunting opportunities are available at Cedar Island NWR. Access to the refuge is via US 70 and NC Highway 12 from Morehead City. Cedar Island can also be accessed by ferry from Ocracoke Island. Two boat ramps, one at Thorofare ditch off Highway 12 and one at the end of Lola Road, offer boat access to waters adjacent to the refuge. Cedar Island NWR is open for public use from sunrise to sunset – daylight use only.

A 400-acre area of marsh is open to waterfowl hunting in accordance with applicable State and Federal regulations. The hunt area extends from John Day Ditch to Thorofare Ditch along the shoreline of West Bay and West Thorofare Bay as indicated on the hunting map. The hunt area extends 300 feet from the shoreline into the marsh. Within this hunt area, waterfowl may be hunted according to seasons and regulations set by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission.

In addition to state regulations, all waterfowl hunting is subject to the following conditions:

1. We allow portable blinds. You must remove blinds, decoys, and other personal property at the end of each day's hunt. Construction of permanent blinds is prohibited.
2. Youth hunters under the age of 16 must have proof of passing a state approved Hunter Education Course to hunt on the refuge and must be supervised by a licensed hunter over the age of 21.
3. For reasons of hunter safety and courtesy, we prohibit hunters/hunt parties from hunting closer than 150 yards (135 meters) apart.
4. All weapons must be unloaded and dismantled or encased while being transported in a vehicle or boat.
5. Hunters using the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, vehicles, and their contents by Refuge or State enforcement officers.
6. We allow hunters to enter and remain in open hunting areas from 1 hour before legal shooting time until 1 hour after legal shooting time.

Prohibited Activities

Camping	Fires
Littering	Target practice
Commercial Guiding (except when authorized Refuge special use permit)	
Air boating	Jet skiing
All terrain vehicles	Swimming
Sailing	Sailboarding
Molesting wildlife	Collecting plants, flowers, nuts or berries

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

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



