

# Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee

## National Wildlife Refuge

### Alligator Hunting Regulations 2016-2017

#### Alligator Hunting Regulations General Provisions

Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge is part of a system of refuges administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Public hunting is an appropriate use of our alligator resources and is allowed on 30,000 acres of the refuge's 143,954 acres.

This brochure contains special regulations that supplement state laws with Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. These Refuge specific regulations are in place to protect our natural resources while providing a rewarding outdoor experience. These Refuge specific regulations may be more restrictive than, and supersede the State law. Careful adherence to these regulations and due respect for others will ensure the future of alligator hunting on Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.

#### General Hunting Regulations

*Season:* The refuge open alligator season is concurrent with the state season. Hunting is permitted the first two weekends during Harvest Period 1 and the first two weekends during Harvest Period 2. Following the close of Harvest Period 2, the remaining weekends in October will be open for alligator harvest permittees that possess unused CITES tags.

*Hunt Days:* Weekend days only – Friday night through Sunday.

*Daily Shooting:* Hunt hours are more restrictive than the State. Hunt hours will be one hour before sunset Friday night to one hour after sunrise Saturday morning and one hour before sunset Saturday night to one hour after sunrise Sunday morning.

*Hunt Area:* The hunting area is indicated on the map on the reverse side of this brochure and is clearly posted as open to hunting. We allow hunting in the interior of the refuge south of latitude line 26.27.130 and north of mile marker 12 and 14. We prohibit hunting from levees and areas posted as closed including the 1 mile buffer set around the boat ramps.

Hunters will only use the Hillsboro Area boat ramp (Loxahatchee Road, Boca Raton) to access the hunt area.

*Alcohol:* The possession or use of alcohol while hunting or operating a boat is prohibited.

*Entry to Refuge:* Hunters will use the Hillsboro Area boat ramp (Loxahatchee Road, Boca Raton) to access the Refuge.

*Licenses and Stamps:* Hunters 18 years and older must be in possession of all necessary State and Federal licenses,

permits, and CITES tags, as well as a Refuge hunt permit while hunting on the Refuge. They must possess an Alligator Trapping License with CITES tags or an Alligator Trapping Agent License, if applicable. All hunters must read, sign, and carry the Refuge Alligator Hunt Permit. By signing and carrying the permit the hunter is acknowledging awareness of all Refuge specific regulations.

**Hunters must complete a Big Game Hunt Report and place it in the entrance fee canister each day prior to exiting the Refuge.** Any unlicensed non-hunting observer may be on the boat with the licensed and permitted alligator hunter.

The Refuge Alligator Hunt Permit can be found online at [www.fws.gov/refuge/arm\\_loxahatchee](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/arm_loxahatchee).

*Methods of Take:* Alligators may be taken using hand held snares, harpoons, gigs, snatch hooks, artificial lures, manually operated spears, spear guns, and crossbows. Alligators **may not be taken** using baited hooks, baited wooden pegs, or firearms. Bang sticks with non-toxic ammunition are only permitted for taking alligators attached to a restraining line.

Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee NWR  
10216 Lee Road  
Boynton Beach, FL 33473-4797  
561/732 3684  
[www.fws.gov/refuge/arm\\_loxahatchee](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/arm_loxahatchee)

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

August 2016



Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee  
National Wildlife Refuge  
Hunt Permit for Alligator

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee NWR  
Alligator Hunt Regulations

Signature (This permit valid only when signed.)

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

**Captured Alligators:** Once an alligator is captured, it must be killed immediately. Once the alligator is dead, a CITES tag must be locked through the skin of a carcass within six inches of the tip of the tail. The tag must remain attached to the alligator at all times.

**Juveniles:** Hunters under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult of at least 21 years of age and possess an Alligator Trapping Agent License. The adult may supervise up to two youths.

**Boats:** Only water cooled outboard motor boats, canoes, kayaks are permitted. No airboats, "Go Devils," or mudboats allowed. For safety, all watercraft must comply with U.S. Coast Guard and State of Florida regulations. There is a speed limit of 35 mph on all waters of the refuge and the L101 Canal is a slow speed zone for safety. We require all boats operating outside of the main perimeter canals (L-40 Canal, L-39 Canal, L-7 Canal and L-101 Canal) in the interior areas of the refuge and within the hunt area, to fly a 12 inch by 12 inch (30 cm X 30 cm) orange flag, 10 ft (3m) above the waterline. Only one boat per hunter is allowed.

**Firearms and Weapons Inspections: Possession in compliance with Federal and State law.** Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on national wildlife refuges must comply with all provisions of Federal, State, and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in part 32).

Hunters are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, equipment, boats, vehicles, and other belongings by federal and state law enforcement officers.

Hunters must remove all personal property from the refuge each day.

**Other Prohibited Activities:** Littering, camping, fires, overnight parking, taking of plants (or parts of), taking of wildlife (or parts of) except where authorized (hunting and fishing), baiting or hunting over bait, trapping, marking trails with non-biodegradable flagging, and blocking gates or roadways with vehicles.

**For emergencies or to report violations, contact law enforcement personnel at 1/800/307 5789.**

**Safety:** Ensure your boat is seaworthy and carry plenty of fuel. If you should become lost and/or stranded, please observe the following procedures which will aid law enforcement personnel in locating you. Call the refuge emergency number 1/800/307 5789.

If you become stranded or broken down, try to paddle to the canal or get to a levee. Do not try to walk out. Stay with your vessel.

A boat, airboat, or aircraft, will be used to reach you. Display a light, flag, or other device to aid personal in locating you. If a search vessel nears you make noise to help officers pinpoint your location. If you have made cell phone contact, give the dispatcher your current location and do not move unless in an emergency.

In connection with the above procedures, we strongly urge that each hunter have a light, flare gun or flares which may be fired from a shotgun.

### Hunt Closure

The alligator hunt at Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge may have to be terminated early, or some of the hunt area closed, should unusual climatic conditions result in threats to visitor safety, management activities, possible degradation of habitat by visitor use, or a concentration of endangered species within the hunt area. The refuge's first obligation is to protect the visitor, habitat, and endangered species such as snail kites and wood storks.

### Please Read This Important Message Attention Hunters!

Hunting on a national wildlife refuge is a privilege and your behavior while participating in this hunt may affect future hunting on refuges.

Every national wildlife refuge in this state provides habitat for several endangered or threatened species. Federal and State laws prohibit any activity that might harm endangered or threatened plants or animals. We believe that these hunts can be conducted without harming any endangered species and have taken certain precautions to make it so. We cannot, however, prevent irresponsible acts by hunters, and if such acts do occur, we may be forced to discontinue the hunt.

The following endangered or threatened species of wildlife may be found on Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge:

### Federal and/or State Listed

Crested Caracara - T  
Eastern Indigo Snake - T  
Florida Panther - E  
Florida Sandhill Crane - State T  
Least Tern - State T  
Snail Kite - E  
Southeastern American Kestrel - State T  
Wood Stork - T

**Remember:** Your hunt permit authorizes you to take only alligators. Harming or needlessly disturbing any other wildlife, including any birds, mammals, turtles, frogs, lizards and even poisonous snakes, is a violation of federal law and is cause for prosecution.

### Signs Protect Visitors and Resources

Millions of people visit national wildlife refuges each year. The impact of human activity, if not regulated, can degrade these wildlands. Signs control recreational activities while protecting natural resources on the refuge. Please respect the following signs:

**Refuge Boundary Sign**  
National Wildlife Refuge  
- unauthorized entry prohibited.



**Area Beyond This Sign Closed**  
No entry of any kind allowed beyond this sign.



**Area Closed to Hunting**  
No hunting allowed in the area beyond this sign.



**Public Hunting Area**  
Hunting is allowed in the area beyond this sign in accordance with Federal and State regulations.



