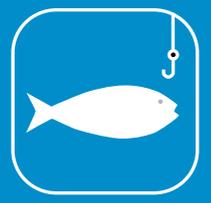


Sabine

National Wildlife Refuge Fishing Regulations



General Provisions

Sabine National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1937, is one of over 500 national wildlife refuges. The primary objective of a national wildlife refuge is to provide habitat for the conservation and protection of all species of fish and wildlife. Sport fishing is a priority public use permitted at a level compatible with the environment and when it can provide quality recreational opportunities.

Individuals utilizing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, fishing equipment, daily limits, boats, vehicles, and their contents by federal or state officers.

The regulations listed below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting and fishing on wildlife refuge areas as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Fishing will be in accordance with applicable state regulations subject to the following special conditions.

License and Permits

A valid Louisiana Basic Fishing License and Salt Water License are required to fish and cast net on the refuge. Louisiana residents and non-residents are NOT required to have a fishing license to crab on Sabine National Wildlife Refuge. All people cast netting for shrimp must obtain a special Cast Netting Permit from the Sabine Refuge Visitor Center. Cast Netting Permits must be in your possession while cast netting on the refuge.

Refuge Hours

Admittance onto the refuge is restricted from official sunrise to sunset. Cast netting is permitted from noon to sunset only during the Louisiana Inland Water Shrimp Season (see Cast Netting Permit). All other activities conducted outside refuge hours are prohibited.

Possession Limits

The daily fish limits are the same as Louisiana's Sport Fishing Limits. The daily crab limit is 5 dozen (60) per day, per vehicle or boat. The daily shrimp limit is 5 gallons of heads-on shrimp per day, per vehicle or boat. No alligators, turtles, frogs, snakes, or crawfish may be taken or possessed within the refuge.

Public Access

Fishing and public access are permitted from March 15 through October 15 on designated waterways and inside Management Unit 3. Management Units 1A & 1B are open from March 15 to October 15 to non-motorized boats only. Bank fishing along Highway 27 is permitted year-round.

The saltwater boat launch at West Cove is open year-round for fishing access into Calcasieu Lake. West Cove Canal is closed to fishing from October 16 through March 14, and is to be used for boat passage only during this time.

Fishing

Fishing with rod and reel, pole and line or jug and line is permitted. The use or possession of any other type of fishing gear including limb lines, gill nets, or trotlines is prohibited on the refuge.

No commercial activities are permitted.

Crabbing

Crabs may be taken with hand lines or dropnets. Only cotton line and dropnets up to 24" outside diameter may be used. All handlines, dropnets and bait must be removed from the refuge upon leaving.

Jug Fishing

Jug line fishing is permitted in canals open to the public. Jugs are limited to 10 per boat and must be attended at all times. All jugs must be marked with the attendant's fishing license number and must be removed from the refuge daily.

Cast Netting

All people cast netting for shrimp must obtain a special Cast Netting Permit from the Sabine Refuge Visitor Center. Cast Netting Permits must be in your possession while cast netting on the refuge.

Boat, Motor and Operation Limits

All State Boating regulations must be followed. Boats may not be dragged across levees. Outboard motors may only be operated in the named canals and bayous designated on the map within this brochure and within Management Unit 3. Only trolling motors may be operated in all other refuge areas. Only outboard motors up to 40 HP may be used in Management Unit 3. All boaters must obey the posted NO WAKE ZONES. The use of ATV's, air thrust boats, personal motorized watercraft (Jet Ski's) and Go-Devil style motors are prohibited.

Littering

Help keep these marshes beautiful by taking all litter home. You are saving wildlife dollars. Possession of glass containers on the refuge is prohibited.

Others

The sale, or offer for sale, of any fish, crab, shrimp or other wildlife resource taken from the refuge is prohibited.



Please do not feed or approach the alligators.

Nails and/or other objects may not be driven into boardwalks or other refuge structures.

Portable grills, campfires, and cooking fires are prohibited on the refuge.

The only weapons and ammunition which may be possessed while in refuge waterways and marshes are shotguns and non-toxic shot during refuge waterfowl hunting seasons.

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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