

Anahuac and McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge's Alligator Trapping Permit Application 2008

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be conducting an alligator harvest on Anahuac and McFaddin National Wildlife Refuges from September 10-20, 2008. The primary purpose of the harvest is to maintain healthy alligator populations while reducing negative effects on other wildlife species and protecting refuge infrastructure. Experienced alligator hunters will be randomly selected from a pool of qualified applicants. A drawing will be held on Wednesday, August 13, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the American Legion Hall at Fort Anahuac Park in Anahuac, Texas, and all applicants are required to be present to qualify. If selected, the permit is for one year. The Service reserves the right to renew selected permittees for up to four additional years.

The number of alligator tags issued will be dependent on trap area and permit allocation from the State of Texas. Selected permittees will be required to participate in the use of approved experimental harvest techniques at various locations and units on the refuge. Selected permittees can expect an average of 25 to 50 tags per season made up of both Management Tags for alligators less than six feet total length and standard CITES tags. Permittees are expected to have at least one active set out per tag every day during the 10 day season until tags are filled. Hunters are required to check lines and/or attempt to harvest alligators on a daily basis. A portion of the sales of harvested alligators will be collected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This portion will vary based on the size of the alligator.

Complete applications are required. Please follow instructions carefully, as incomplete or late applications will not be considered for the drawing. Applications must be received in the Anahuac Refuge office by 4:00 pm on Monday, July 21, 2008.

NOTICE: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44USC 3501, et seq.) and the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a) please be advised that:

1. The permitting of economic and public uses on lands of the National Wildlife Refuge System is authorized by the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act (16 USC 668dd ee) and the Refuge Recreation Act (16 USC 460k-n) implemented in regulations in 43 CFR 24.3 and 50 CFR subchapter c.
2. The application form will be used by Fish and Wildlife Service personnel to evaluate the qualifications and conclude the eligibility of the applicant.
3. Routine use disclosures may also be made (1) to the US Department of Justice when related to litigation or anticipated litigation; (2) of information indicating a violation of a statute, regulation, rule, order, or license to appropriate Federal, State, local or foreign agencies responsible for investigating or prosecuting the violation or for enforcing or implementing the statute rule, regulation order, or license; (3) from the record of an individual in response to an inquiry from a Congressional office made at the request of that individual (42 FR 19083; April 11, 1977).
4. The information requested in this application is purely voluntary, but failure to answer questions may jeopardize the eligibility of individuals to receive permits.

Qualifications for Alligator Trapping Permits

1. Permit applicants must demonstrate the skills necessary to take alligators in such a manner that maintain animals in a commercial quality and are attractive to prospective buyers. Applicants are required to have a minimum of two years experience in alligator trapping and must have harvested a minimum of twenty alligators.
2. Permit applicants must possess the equipment necessary to trap assigned units.

3. Permit applicants must be competent, honest and of good character. Favorable references from past employers or landowners are required (two or more).
4. Permit applicants must be present daily during the harvest.
5. Permit applicants must be in good health and be able to withstand the rigorous conditions presented by marsh trapping. Sets must be checked daily.
6. Permit applicants must be 18 years of age or older.
7. Permit applicants and their licensed helpers will be subjected to criminal background investigations.
8. Permit applicants and their helpers will be required to possess a valid state hunting license.
9. Permit applicants must pay deposit and tag fees at the pre-hunt meeting on August 27, 2008.

Disqualifications

1. Application not received by deadline.
2. Application incomplete.
3. The applicant has been convicted of a serious wildlife or refuge regulation violation or other serious violations within the last five (5) years. Results of criminal background investigation could disqualify successful applicants.
4. Applicant fails to attend the drawing or pre-hunt meeting. Only rare exceptions will be granted on a case by case basis. Applicants are required to make arrangements to take off work to be at meetings.
5. Unfavorable references from past employers or land owners as it relates to alligator trapping.

Trapping Permit Will Be Terminated If:

1. The trapper does not have the proper equipment and fails to demonstrate they can do the job based on normal take, marsh conditions and workmanship.
2. Violations of any refuge, federal, or state law since the permit drawing, including failure to comply with terms and conditions of the Special Use Permit.
3. The permittee fails to follow instructions or cooperate with refuge personnel as required by the permit.
4. The permittee allows unauthorized helpers to enter the refuge and/or charges any person a fee to help take alligators.

2008 Alligator Harvest Application

Please indicate refuge preference in the blanks provided next to each refuge name.
Write 1 for first choice, 2 for second choice, or 0 for a refuge you do not want to trap.

Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge _____

McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge _____

Applicant must complete entire two-page application form. Information provided must be verifiable. If any information provided can not be checked, the application will be rejected.

Print Full Name _____ Date _____
Last First Middle

Address: _____

City, State Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Driver's License Number _____

Social Security Number _____ Date of Birth _____

I certify that I meet all qualifying standards and that I have read, understand and agree to any conditions associated with the refuge use for which I make application.

Applicants Signature _____ Date _____

-
1. List names and current phone numbers of two individuals who are not your helpers or immediate family members who are familiar with your trapping experience.
 2. List number of years of experience trapping alligators.
 3. List locations, names and current phone numbers of landowners in which you have trapped on during the last 5 years.

4. List the number of alligators you have harvested during your trapping experience. _____
List the number of alligators harvested during each of the last five (5) years, and attach supporting documentation (hide tag reports, sales receipts, etc.).

5. If your trapping experience is as a helper, provide the years, locations, permittee names and current phone numbers of trappers you helped.

6. Describe the equipment you have available to you to harvest alligators (i.e. shallow draft boat, airboat, ATV, 4-wheel drive vehicle).

7. Please list the equipment you are prepared to use as a permittee to legally take alligators (i.e. standard hook and line, wooden dowels, bow and arrow, float fishing, etc.).

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all of my statements are true, correct and complete, and made in good faith. I understand I may be disqualified if any information on this application is found to be false.

Applicants Signature _____ Date _____

All applications must be received by 4:00 pm on Monday, July 21, 2008 at the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge office.

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 278
Anahuac, Texas 77514
Phone: 409-267-3337
Fax: 409-267-4314

Physical Address:
509 Washington Avenue
Anahuac, Texas 77514