

News Release

Department of the Interior / U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex
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Lacassine and Sabine National Wildlife Refuges Open to Teal Hunting

The Louisiana Teal season is scheduled for September 10- September 25, 2011. Both Sabine and Lacassine National Wildlife Refuges will be open to Teal hunting throughout the season on designated days. Only approved non-toxic shot may be used.

Sabine NWR is open for hunting Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Hunters can enter the refuge and launch at 4:00 am. Shooting hours end at 12:00 pm (noon) each day. Boats may enter the refuge hunt areas from West Cove Recreation Area or through Burton Canal via Black Bayou. Vastar Road remains closed due to bridge outage.

Lacassine NWR is open for hunting Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Hunters may enter the refuge at 4:00 am. Shooting hours end at 12:00 pm (noon) each day. Hunters may hunt the portion of the refuge south of the Gulf Intercoastal Waterway and between the Mermentau River and the east bank of the Lacassine Bayou (excluding the Duck Pond area and Unit B). There is a federal order prohibiting waterfowl hunting on a portion of Lacassine Bayou that flows through the refuge.

Youths, 17 and under, must have proof of successful completion of a Hunter Safety Course. All youths attending the hunt must be under the supervision of an adult age 21 or over. Each adult may supervise no more than two youths.

Hunters are encouraged to familiarize themselves with hunting areas prior to hunting and before the fall refuge closure on October 15th. Hunt unit conditions and access may change each year depending upon weather, growth and expansion of

vegetation, and tidal flow. Only portable blinds are allowed on the refuge. All boats, blinds, and decoys must be removed immediately following each days hunt.

All refuge hunters are required to possess a refuge-hunting permit. The *Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex Hunting Regulations 2011-2012* brochure will serve as the required permit when it has been signed, dated and in your possession . A copy of the brochure may be obtained from the SW LA NWR Complex Visitor Center located at Cameron Prairie refuge, any refuge hunter check station, and electronically. Download the brochure from the Refuge Complex website at <http://www.fws.gov/swlarefugecomplex> under the Hunting Regulations link. The 2011-12 hunt permit is in two parts at the top of the page and is labeled incorrectly as 2010-11 on the site, however, once you click on it you will see that it is the current brochure. Both parts must be printed to have the entire brochure.

Each hunting party is required to fill out a Migratory Bird Hunt Report Form after each hunt and drop it in one of the designated drop boxes. Every party, whether successful or not, needs to complete the Report Form. This information provides us with a means to evaluate hunter effort on the refuge.

For additional information regarding about teal hunting on National Wildlife Refuges please call 337-598-2216.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System that encompasses more than 540 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands, and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. The agency also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.