

Sport Fishing Regulations

(including crabbing, clamming, oystering and shrimping)

Special Conditions

You may Fish, Crab, Clam, Oyster, and Shrimp in the Indian River Lagoon, Mosquito Lagoon, Banana River Lagoon, Mosquito Control Impoundments and Interior Freshwater Lakes except for the restricted areas of the Kennedy Space Center or as noted below. In advance of launches, the normal restricted area is expanded which temporarily closes certain waters that are normally open to sports fishing. If you have questions regarding these temporary closures, you may call the Refuge for more information. Individuals found in NASA's normal or expanded Restricted Area are subject to arrest. All Florida Fishing Regulations apply as well as the following Refuge Specific Regulations:

- You must possess a current signed Refuge Sports Fishing Permit at all times while fishing on the Refuge. The permit is self-issuing and assures you have read and understand Merritt Island NWR's fishing regulations.
- You may fish at night from a boat in the waters of Haulover Canal, Mosquito Lagoon, Indian River Lagoon and Banana River Lagoon. Bank fishing after dark is not permitted. Impoundments and interior ponds are not open to night fishing.
- You may launch a boat at night from: Bairs Cove and Beacon 42. All other Refuge Boat Ramps are closed to night launching.
- You may not crab or fish from Black Point Wildlife Drive or any side road connected to Black Point Wildlife Drive except L Pond Road.
- You may not launch boats, canoes, kayaks from Black Point Wildlife Drive or any side road connected to Black Point except L Pond Road.
- Motorized vessels are not permitted in the Banana River Lagoon within the posted No-Motor Zone. This includes any vessel having an attached or non-attached internal combustion or electric trolling motor capable of use.
- You may not use air thrust boats, hover craft, personal watercraft, kite surfing, kite boarding, wind surfing, sail boarding and other similar non-wildlife oriented recreational activities in Refuge waters.
- Vessel speeds must not exceed Idle Speed in Bairs Cove and KARS Marina or Slow Speed/Minimum Wake in Haulover Canal. Florida law also regulates boat speeds on other waters of the Refuge.
- You may not harvest or possess horseshoe crabs, frogs, turtles, snakes and other wildlife.
- Anglers and crabbers must attend their lines at all times. We will remove abandoned property after 72 hours.
- Commercial fishermen and Fishing Guides are required to obtain and carry an annual Commercial Permit.
- Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of State and Local laws. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulation (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).
- Camping and/or overnight parking, fireworks and open fires are prohibited. Pets must remain on a leash or in your vehicle/vessel.
- Bank fishing areas on the northeast and southeast sides of Haulover canal are open to foot access only. Parking areas have been provided.
- Fishing from or in the immediate vicinity of the Manatee Viewing Deck on the northeast side of Haulover Canal is prohibited.
- Littering is prohibited and subjected to a fine. **We prohibit glass beverage containers.**
- Vehicles, boats, equipment and other belongings are subject to inspection by a law enforcement officer.
- To improve fishing and protect grass flats, two Pole & Troll Zones have been established in Mosquito Lagoon. (See Map) The zones are delineated with buoys. Within the zones, internal combustion engines must be shut off (except in posted channels) and vessels drafting more than 12 inches at rest must not enter. Vessels may be propelled by a non-motorized power source such as drifting, push poles, paddles, etc. Electric trolling may be used through the zones. Boats may operate internal combustion engines only in the posted channels within the Pole & Troll Zones.
- Additional information may be obtained by contacting Refuge Headquarters on SR 402 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday; telephone (321) 861-0667 or website: www.fws.gov/merrittisland/. To report a law enforcement violation, call 321-861-2807.

In case of an emergency call: **321-867-7911**.



Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge 2015 Fishing Permit

In case of emergency call 321-867-7911

NEW FOR THIS YEAR:
Fish cleaning not allowed on Refuge Property

Name _____

Print

Address _____

I have read and understand Merritt Island N. W. R.'s fishing regulations.

Signature (This permit valid only when signed.)



Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge 2015 Fishing Permit

In case of emergency call 321-867-7911

NEW FOR THIS YEAR:
Fish cleaning not allowed on Refuge Property

Name _____

Print

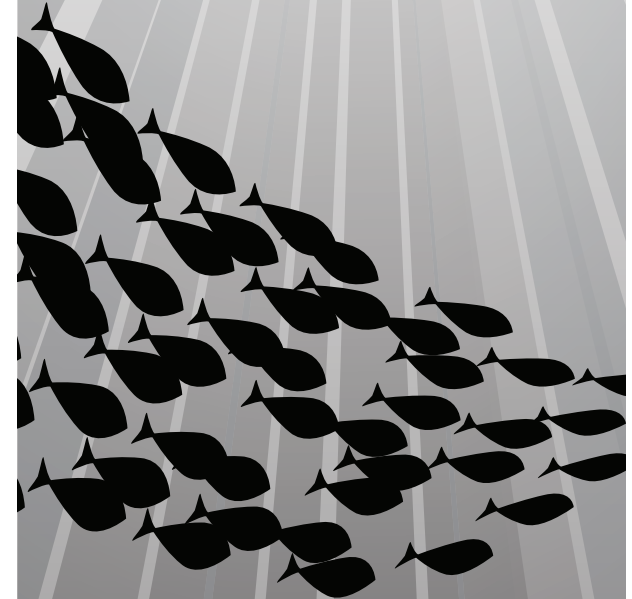
Address _____

I have read and understand Merritt Island N. W. R.'s fishing regulations.

Signature (This permit valid only when signed.)

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

2015 Boating and Fishing Map and Regulations



Merritt Island
National Wildlife Refuge
Florida

Website: www.fws.gov/merrittisland/

FISHING MAP

MERRITT ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Pole & Troll Zone

