

# News Release

## Department of the Interior / U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Cameron Prairie NWR  
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### **Fishing Opens on Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuges March 15, 2016**

Three refuges within the Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Cameron Prairie, Sabine, and Lacassine National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) will open for public sport fishing Tuesday, March 15, 2016 through October 15, 2016. Boat admittance into the refuges is permitted from one hour before legal sunrise to one hour after legal sunset. Fishing and crabbing are permitted from legal sunrise to legal sunset. Only boats with motors of 40 horsepower or less may be used in Lacassine Pool, use of surface drive motors and push poles are encouraged. Call 855-532-9955 for Grand bayou boat bay openings to access Cameron Prairie's East Cove Unit.

For details on fishing and boating within the refuges please obtain a Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex Fishing Regulations brochure from one of the refuges or online at <http://www.fws.gov/swlarefugecomplex> under the **Fishing** link.

The entrance gate to Lacassine Pool will be opened at 6:20 am. Parking on or along Illinois Plant Road is not permitted, please proceed to the refuge to arrive at or after the entrance gate is opened. Water control structures in Lacassine Pool are set to hold water at full Pool. Due to recent rainfall these units are at or above full Pool. However, only continued significant rainfall will maintain water levels at this elevation. Water levels are constantly reduced by evaporation due to temperature and plant transpiration which increases as plant growth increases.

To help limit the spread of the invasive plant, Giant Salvinia, please remember to thoroughly clean boats and trailers after every fishing trip. Please do not litter and obey all safety regulations and signage.

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 560 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.

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