

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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News Release



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U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES FOR HUNTERS IN SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

GROSSE ILE, MICHIGAN – Portions of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge are open for early goose season as well as the early teal season, and will remain open for the remainder of the hunting season.

The following units are open to big game, small game and migratory bird hunting: Humbug Island, Calf Island, Sugar Island, the Strong Unit and the Fix Unit. Portions of the Plum Creek Bay Unit only accessible by boat will be open to migratory bird hunting only. The Brancheau Unit will be open solely to waterfowl hunting by special permit assigned through lottery. The unit will be open on opening day of the regular waterfowl season and Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday mornings thereafter for the remainder of the regular waterfowl season. The popular permit hunt is managed in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources at the Pointe Mouillee State Game Area. Open water areas such as Humbug Marsh, Mama Juda Shoal, and waters surrounding Mud Island, Grassy Island, Humbug Island, Calf Island and the Brancheau Unit are will be open to waterfowl hunting below the ordinary high watermark in accordance with State laws and Regulations. Hunting from shore and entry onto uplands of Mud Island and Grassy Island or the mainland portion of the Humbug Marsh Unit above the ordinary high watermark are prohibited.

Selected hunters have already been chosen for the second annual Humbug Marsh (mainland) lottery deer hunt. Interested hunters for the 2018 season should look for application announcements in mid-July 2018.

On September 15, 2017 the Fix Unit will open to the public for hunting and self-guided exploration. This will become the third unit, after the Gibraltar Bay Unit on Grosse Ile and the Strong Unit on Port Sunlight Road, to open year round to self-guided exploration. Additional units will be opening in the new year.

As a reminder, all baiting is prohibited on National Wildlife Refuge land. Violators will be ticketed.

For more refuge specific information regarding the hunt program at Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, please visit the refuge website: www.fws.gov/refuge/Detroit_River.

For additional information, contact Deputy Refuge Manager Steve Dushane at 734-692-7604 or Visitor Services Manager Jody DeMeyere at 734-692-7649.

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is proud to not only be the only international refuge in North America, but one of only 14 priority urban refuges in the nation charged with bringing conservation to cities. It covers 48 miles of shoreline along the lower Detroit River and western basin of Lake Erie -- stretching from southwest Detroit to the Ohio-Michigan border. The Refuge focuses on conserving, protecting and restoring habitat for 300 species of birds and 117 species of fish. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service currently owns or cooperatively manages 6,202 acres of unique habitats and partners with Michigan Department of Natural Resource on conservation of 7,897 acres of state-owned land. A Canadian registry of lands now includes 3,797 acres of Essex Region Conservation Authority lands and 981 acres of City of Windsor lands. In total, 18,877 acres of land in southeast Michigan and

southwest Ontario are now being cooperatively managed for conservation and outdoor recreation for nearly seven million people living in a 45-minute drive.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is, working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service is both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation. Visit www.fws.gov to learn more.

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