

# Parker River

## National Wildlife Refuge

### Drive-On Surf Fishing Information

A limited number of drive-on surf-fishing permits are issued annually via a lottery drawing. You may enter the permit lottery from July 1-July 31<sup>st</sup>. Details on how to apply are located at: [https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/Region\\_5/NWRS/North\\_Zone/Parker\\_River\\_Complex/Parker\\_River/Sections/Publications/Download\\_Page/Surf\\_Fish\\_DriveOn\\_Lottery\\_Instructions.pdf](https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/Region_5/NWRS/North_Zone/Parker_River_Complex/Parker_River/Sections/Publications/Download_Page/Surf_Fish_DriveOn_Lottery_Instructions.pdf). (Note: this URL may change when we update and upload the new version of this document.) Winners will be notified by August 10<sup>th</sup>. The drive-on surf fishing season begins around September 1 and extends through October 31<sup>st</sup>. The beginning of the season may be influenced by the piping plover breeding season. (Updates will be announced via the refuge's Facebook page and press release.)

**Motor vehicle access to the refuge beach is for fishing purposes only.** If you are not fishing, you cannot be on the beach with your vehicle. Drive-on permit holders and all individuals over 13 yrs old must be actively fishing at all times. Any MA resident 16 yrs and older must have a MA Division of Marine Fisheries recreational salt water fishing permit. For non-MA residents, a salt water fishing permit from NH, RI, and CT can be used in lieu of a MA permit.

**PERMIT FEE:** \$50. In addition to the permit fee, anglers must pay the daily entrance fee (\$5/vehicle, \$2 walk-on/bicycle). Annual entrance passes are also available for \$20.

**MOTOR VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS:** Drive-on permits will only be issued for vehicles equipped with conventional four wheel drive (pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles). Such qualifying vehicles must have a factory installed knob, insignia, button or shifter that clearly says "4WD" or "4 Wheel Drive. *All-wheel drive vehicles do not qualify and will not be permitted.*

**REQUIRED EQUIPMENT:** Vehicles must have a valid state registration and inspection sticker and be equipped with the following items: (1) shovel, (2) jack, (3) board for jack support, (4) inflated, standard-size spare tire, (5) tire pressure gauge, and, (6) tow strap/chain/cable. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** When accessing the beach, Drive-On applicants *must* possess a rod and reel for each person older than 13.

**SIGNING IN:** A self sign-in/sign-out board is located at Lot 1. **Every drive-on permit holder must sign in and out each time they exit or enter the beach.** Permit holders are prohibited from fishing overnight on the refuge for longer than 2 consecutive nights. Permit holders can fish everyday if they don't stay beyond midnight any given night. Permit holders must have their permit with them at all times. Permits are NOT transferrable, but do include all vehicle passengers. The permit holder's designated vehicle must display a valid permit decal (issued with the Refuge Use Permit) on the driver's side, lower corner of the windshield.

**VEHICLE ACCESS:** Refuge entry is from sunrise to sunset but can exit the refuge at any time. Vehicle beach access is ONLY via BB1 (North Beach Access) four wheel drive trail, located .5 miles (.8 kilometers) south of entrance gatehouse (see map). Beach access may be temporarily prohibited due to storms, high tides, or other safety reasons.

**NOTE: Vehicles are prohibited from driving North of BB-1 at any time (see map) and beyond the southern drive-on boundary (to be determined by conditions). Vehicle access to Sandy Point State Reservation is prohibited! To minimize disturbance of migrating shorebirds, please drive with caution on the beach.**

#### ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS:

- Camping on the beach, and anywhere else on the refuge (including the parking lots), is prohibited.
- Open fires are prohibited.
- Vehicles are prohibited from driving on the wrack, near the base of the dunes, or on wet sand.
- **The maximum vehicle speed limit on the beach is 10 mph.** Tire pressure should not exceed 15 psi.
- Leaving an unattended vehicle on the beach is prohibited.

- Riding on a fender, roof, tailgate, open pickup bed, or any exterior portion of a vehicle is prohibited.
- Erecting a tent is prohibited.
- Deep, vehicle-created ruts/holes must be immediately filled by those responsible.
- Rods/lines must be kept within 20 feet of the water to reduce conflicts with other beach users.
- From sunset to sunrise each person 13 years of age or older must have surf fishing gear and be actively engaged in surf fishing while on the beach.
- All trash must be packed out.

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**Permits are at all times subject to discretionary revocation by the Refuge Manager.**

