Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge Public All Game Hunting
2016-2017

Bombay Hook NWR offers the following deer, turkey, and small game hunting opportunities subject to applicable state and federal regulations and the following special conditions:

General All Game Regulations

- Hunting in violation of any Delaware state law or any other federal wildlife related law is a violation of refuge hunting regulations. Consult Delaware's Division of Fish and Wildlife's publications or website for current hunting regulations.
- Visitors when requested by Federal or State enforcement officers must display for inspection all permits, game, equipment, and ammunition.
- All hunters must obtain a daily permit when required, before a hunt and have it on their person.
- Permits must be returned to their designated return locations at the end of every hunting day.
- Hunters under 16 years of age must be accompanied by a licensed hunter at least 18 years of age. Non-hunting youths 15 and under may accompany a permitted adult at least 21 years of age on the same deer stand if the adult signs a statement accepting responsibility. Non-hunting adults may only accompany a permitted juvenile or a disabled hunter using an accessible stand or site.
- Only one antlered buck may be taken on Bombay Hook by a hunter during the entire hunting season (September through January).
- Hunters must remove all hunting stands, boats, blinds, decoys, personal property and trash at the end of every hunting day.
- All persons in firearms hunting areas must wear in a conspicuous manner on head, chest, and back a minimum of 400 square inches of solid hunter orange clothing consisting of a vest and hat, or jacket and hat. Orange camouflage does not satisfy this requirement.
- Scouting is permitted on non-hunt days from sunrise to sunset with prior Project Leader permission starting on August 20th until the end of hunting season.
- All vehicle travel is restricted to maintained gravel roads and parking areas.
- Hunt areas may be closed completely or in part, without notice during hazardous conditions like wind, icy roads, etc.
- Hunting in violation of any regulation may result in fines, seizure of property, and the loss of hunting privileges.
- Hunters must exit the refuge by one and one-half hours after legal shooting time.

Prohibited Activities:

- Firearms possession in all federal buildings
- Practice or target shooting
- The distribution of bait and/or hunting over bait
- The use or possession of toxic shot, while small game hunting
- Building structures, including blinds and stands
- The use of nails, wire, screws or bolts to attach a stand to a tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter
- Cutting or destruction of vegetation on the refuge
- The use of spotlights, automotive headlights, or other artificial light for the purpose of spotting, locating, or taking any animal
- Driving or pushing of deer
- The use or possession of any drug on any bow hunting arrow is prohibited
- Dog training
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances

Firearms Deer Hunting

At Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge a preseason drawing is held before the firearms seasons. The public lottery covers the shotgun and muzzleloader seasons in the Headquarters, Regular, Fischer, and Steamboat landing areas respectively.

Applications can be obtained from our visitor center. A $3.00 application fee must accompany all applications. Muzzleloader applications must be postmarked by September 13. All other applications must be postmarked by October 8. Only one application per hunter, per area hunt will be accepted. Duplicate applications will be cause for disqualification.

Failure to appear on the day of the hunt will result in forfeiture of the reservation. Forfeited reservations and permits not requiring advanced reservation will be awarded to stand-by hunters by a ticket-lottery system the day of the hunt.

- Only government provided stands may be used during firearms hunts
- Hunters must be on their assigned stand 15 minutes before legal shooting time until 9:00 AM and from 3:00 PM until the end of legal shooting time
- Individuals with reservations must be at headquarters prior to 1 ½ hours before legal shooting time on the day of the hunt to be issued a permit. A standby ticket-lottery drawing is held 1 ½ hours before legal shooting time for all forfeited reservations. An additional drawing will be held at noon for stand vacancies

Hunters with Disabilities

Hunters with a certified permanent disability may hunt from sites or platforms designed to be accessible by wheelchairs. The platforms are 6'x6' with an access ramp and are 24 inches above the ground. Some sites do not have a platform, but have an area where a chair may be placed. Hunting from vehicles is not allowed. Applications for eligibility for these sites are available at the Refuge and must be completed before the hunt drawing. Disabled hunters must be able to retrieve and/or field dress harvested deer, or they must bring a non-hunting individual to assist them. Assistants may not use a firearm or ammunition for any reason.

Special Youth Hunt

A deer hunt limited to youth hunters accompanied by a Delaware licensed adult 21 years of age or older will take place on **November 5**, on the Steamboat Landing and Fisher tracts. Adults may not possess or use a firearm during the hunt. Youths with their adults will be selected at a standby ticket-lottery drawing held 1 ½ hours before legal shooting time at the Refuge Headquarters. No fee will be charged. There is no noon drawing.

Headquarters Area Hunt

The Headquarters Area is open to shotgun hunting. Up to 39 hunters may hunt in the Headquarters Area hunt on 34 elevated stands and 5 accessible sites for disabled hunters. A fee of $10.00 per hunter must be collected in advance of permit issuance.

- Hunting may only take place on an assigned stand
- No hunters may possess a loaded hunting weapon while away from their assigned stand except to pursue a deer that they have crippled
- Pursuit of a wounded animal must begin within 30 minutes and end within one hour unless authorization to continue the search is given by a refuge employee
- Persons who successfully kill and retrieve a deer may leave the area at any time
- If a hunter leaves, they may return once more during the day not later than 3:00 PM

Regular Area/Fischer Tract Hunt

The Regular Area and Fischer Tract are open to shotgun and primitive firearms. Up to 42 hunters are allowed on the Regular Area and 12 Hunters on the Fischer Tract. Three sites are designed as accessible stands for disabled hunters. A fee of $10.00 per hunter must be collected in advance of permit issuance.

- Between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM hunters may leave their assigned stands to hunt

Steamboat Landing Tract Hunt

The Steamboat Landing Tract is open to shotgun hunting. Up to 17 hunters are allowed on the Steamboat Area. A fee of $10.00 per hunter must be collected in advance of permit issuance.

- Between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM hunters may leave their assigned stands to hunt

South Upland Area

The South Upland Area is open to shotgun and primitive firearms. A daily lottery is held 1 ½ hours before legal shooting time and at 12 noon at the Little Creek Checking Station. Hunters are advised to arrive 15 minutes prior to the lottery. No refuge fees are charged to hunt in this area, but State fees may apply.

- Hunting may only take place on an assigned stand
- Deer hunting is closed during the special October antlerless firearms season
- Additional State Wildlife Area rules apply. Consult Delaware's Division of Fish and Wildlife's Little Creek Wildlife Area - Davey Crockett Tract Hunting Map

Archery Deer Hunting

Archery deer hunting is allowed on four areas of Bombay Hook. No advance reservations are required. Bombay Hook does not participate in the crossbow season; however, a crossbow can be used when appropriate as a lesser weapon during a firearm hunt or if a hunter has obtained a crossbow permit from the state.

Regular Area Hunt

The Regular Area is open to archery hunting. Up to 60 hunters are allowed to free roam hunt or hunt from 42 available elevated deer stands on a first-come, first-serve basis. Hunter provided tree stands must be portable, temporary and completely removed after each use.

Permits are issued at headquarters in a morning drawing 1 hour before legal shooting time. The fee is $2.00 per hunter, charged in advance of permit issuance.

- All hunting must stop at 11:00 AM. All hunters must be out of the area by 12 noon

Fischer Tract/Steamboat Landing Tract Hunt

The Fischer and Steamboat Landing Tracts are open to archery hunting each weekday in October when the State archery season is open, except Fischer Tract during the state muzzleloader season. In the Fischer Tract up to 12 hunters are allowed to free roam hunt or hunt from 12 available elevated deer stands on a first-come, first-serve basis. In the Steamboat Landing Tract up to 17 hunters are allowed to free roam hunt or hunt from 17 available elevated deer stands on a first-come, first-serve basis. Hunter provided tree stands must be portable, temporary, and completely removed after each use.

Permits are issued on a first-come, first-serve, self serve basis at the entrance to the Fischer Tract and at the Steamboat Landing parking area. Permits are area specific and not transferable. The fee is $2.00 per hunter, charged in advance of permit issuance.

- All hunting must stop at 11:00AM. All hunters must be out of the area by 12 noon
- Permits may not be picked up earlier than 2:00 AM on the day of the hunt
- Archery hunters must wear hunter orange clothing in accordance with refuge regulations during the Fischer Area archery hunt

South Upland Area Hunt

The South Upland Area is open to archery hunting when the State archery season is open free of charge. Archery hunters must register for an archery zone at the tag board at the Little Creek Checking Station parking lot. Zone availability is first come, first serve. Hunters may use state-built stands, hunt from the ground or use portable stands. Hunter provided tree stands must be portable, temporary, and completely removed after each use.

- Archery hunting is closed during the Special Youth Waterfowl Hunt
- Additional State Wildlife Area rules apply. Consult Delaware's Division of Fish and Wildlife's Little Creek Wildlife Area - Davey Crockett Tract Hunting Map

Small Game and Turkey Hunting

South Upland Area

Hunters may take turkey, grey squirrel, cottontail rabbit, ring-necked pheasant, bobwhite quail, raccoon, opossum, red fox and mourning dove in season in accordance with state hunting regulations. The South Upland Area hunts are managed by the state of Delaware and facilitated at the Little Creek Checking Station. No refuge fees are charged to hunt in this area, but State fees may apply.

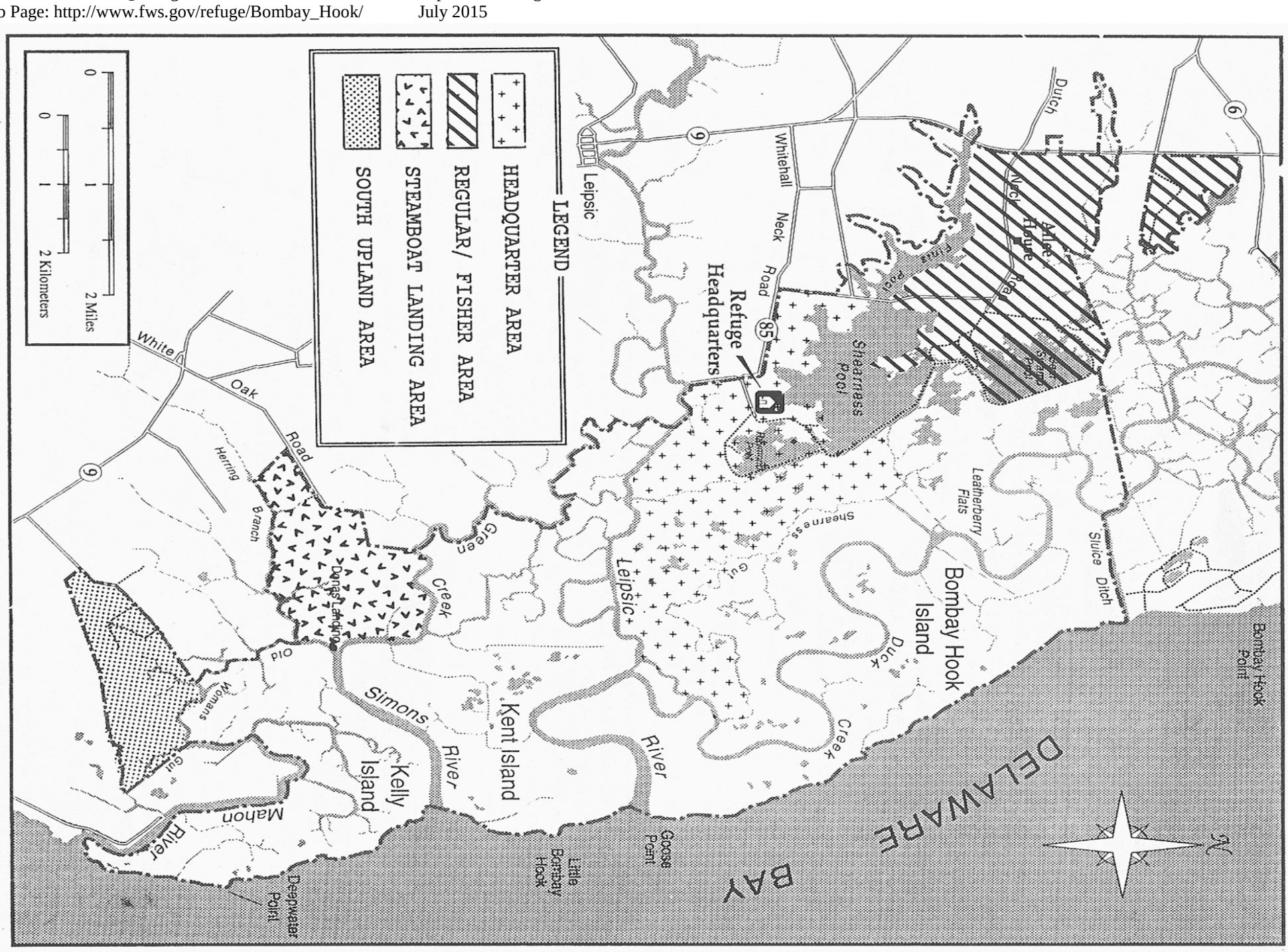
- Only non-toxic shot may be used and in possession to hunt small game
- Additional State Wildlife Area rules apply. Consult Delaware's Division of Fish and Wildlife's Little Creek Wildlife Area - Davey Crockett Tract Hunting Map

Hunt Dates

ARCHERY:	Regular Area Hunt	(September 2, 9)
	Fischer Tract/ Steamboat Landing	(October 3-7, 17-21, 24-28, 31)

FIREARMS:	Muzzleloader:	Regular Area/Fischer Hunt	(October 10, 12, 14)
	Shotgun:	Regular Area/Fischer Hunt	(November 11, 12, 16; Antlerless December 12, 15; January 20)
		Steamboat Landing Hunt	(November 14, 18; Antlerless December 14; January 20)
		Headquarters Hunt	(November 14, 18; Antlerless December 14)
	Youth Hunt:	Fischer Tract/ Steamboat Landing Hunt	(November 5)

For Further Information Contact:

Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge
2591 Whitehall Neck Road
Smyrna, DE 19977
Telephone: 302/653-9345
Email: fw5rw_bhnwr@fws.gov
Web Page: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Bombay_Hook/

Federal Relay Service for the deaf and hard-of-hearing
1-800-877-8339
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
http://www.fws.gov
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