# Waterfowl Hunting Regulations 2015-2016

# *Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge*

**Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge**
**Waterfowl Hunting Permit 2015-2016**
Waterfowl hunting has a deep history and tradition on Anahuac NWR. Most hunting opportunities are in wetlands along bayous that cut through ancient floodplains which create coastal marshes and prairies. These habitats are home to an abundance of wildlife including migratory waterfowl. We recommend against going into the marsh alone until you are thoroughly familiar with the hazards. Some of the marsh is dangerously boggy and home to alligators, venomous snakes, mosquitoes and fire ants.

Hunting units on Anahuac NWR include the East Unit (Spaced Blind Fee Area), Middleton Tract (Non-Fee Area) and the Pace Tract (Non-Fee Area). Hunting units are open on varied days of the week; see specific hunting units below for information on open hunting days. All hunting units are CLOSED on *Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day* and *New Year's Day*. The East Unit hunting area is closed during the Special Teal Season. We ask that hunters be good sportsmen and respect the rights of other hunters afield. Sky-blasting flares game, leaves cripples and disrupts other hunters. Allowing birds to decoy increases your hunting success. Hunting of ducks, geese and coots on Anahuac NWR is ONLY permitted in accordance with all federal, state and local laws; in addition to, signs designating open hunting areas and special hunting regulations outlined in this hunting permit brochure below.

**Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge**
**Waterfowl Hunting Permit 2015-2016**
*When signed and in your possession, this hunt permit will serve as your general permit for all refuge hunts for this season.* It acknowledges your understanding of all Federal and State laws and regulations pertaining to hunting on the refuge.** The East Unit Spaced Blind Area also requires either a daily hunt fee permit or an annual hunt fee permit.

Signature of Hunter

Date

*Permits are required for all hunters.* This permit is valid only when signed above and must be carried with you at all times while on the Refuge. Permits are not transferable.

**Special Hunting Regulations**

- All hunters entering a hunting unit must be legally licensed to hunt waterfowl.
- Scouting will only be allowed during the 7 days prior to the state Youth Waterfowl Hunt from sunrise to sunset.
- Hunters are prohibited from entering hunting units prior to 4:00 A.M. and no later than ½ hour before legal shooting time. Hunting starts at legal shooting time and closes at 12:00 P.M. Hunters must be off the hunt units by 12:30 P.M.
- Hunters age 17 or younger must be under the direct supervision of an adult age 18 or older.
- To participate in the state designated Youth Waterfowl Hunt, hunters must be 15 years of age or younger and under the direct supervision of an adult age 18 or older. Adults are **prohibited** from hunting during the Youth Waterfowl Hunt.
- Hunting parties must remain a minimum of 200 yards from other hunting parties and spaced ponds. Individual hunters within a party must remain within 50 feet from other hunters.
- All hunting shotguns must be unloaded and encased while traveling in vehicles and boats on the refuge. Possession of firearms is in accordance with Federal and State of Texas laws. Discharge of a firearm for purposes other than hunting is prohibited.
- Hunters must ONLY use or possess shotgun shells containing approved non-toxic shot, (Use or Possession of lead shot is prohibited).
- Each individual hunter may only possess 50 approved non-toxic shotgun shells while hunting; this includes shotgun shells within vehicles.
- Vehicle travel is permitted on designated roads and parking areas only. Do not block roads, gates, trails, boat ramps or any other facility at any time. Hunting from a roadway is prohibited.
- Operation of motorized boats on or through emergent wetland vegetation and mudflats is prohibited.
- All boat motors greater than 25 HP are prohibited in the hunting units.
- Motorized boats powered by air-cooled or radiator-cooled engines are restricted to utilizing a propeller 9 inches in diameter or less.
- Motorized boats are prohibited from launching at the East Unit. Access to ponds North of Jackson Ditch by motorized boat should be done via Oyster and Onion Bayous by launching from the Oyster Bayou boat ramp on Anahuac NWR.
- Airboats, marsh buggies, ATV's / UTV's and personal watercrafts are prohibited.
- Camping outside of vehicles and leaving unattended vehicles in the hunt line is prohibited.
- Use, possession or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages or drugs is prohibited. Use or possession of drug paraphernalia is prohibited.
- Campfires, charcoal and wood grills are prohibited. (Gas grills may be utilized).
- Construction, use or occupancy of permanent hunting blinds is prohibited. Portable blinds or native vegetation are permitted and must be removed from the refuge daily. Cutting, use of or introduction of Phragmites (Giant cane) onto the refuge is prohibited; use or introduction of invasive plants is prohibited and should NOT be used for blind building.
- Use of plastic flagging, reflectors or reflective tape is prohibited on the refuge.
- Use of retriever dogs is encouraged however, when not engaged in authorized hunting activities all dogs must be under the control of their handlers at all times or on a leash.
- All refuge lands must be kept clean during the period of use or occupancy. You must keep all refuse, trash and other litter contained in bags or other suitable containers and not left scattered on the ground or in the water at any time. All personal property, refuse, trash, litter, **SPENT SHELLS**, marsh chairs and other equipment must be removed from the refuge daily.

*** Failure to abide by or excessive violations of these Special Hunting Regulations, Federal Regulations or State Laws may result in revocation of your hunting privileges on Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge by the Refuge Manager.**

**** The regulations listed above are a supplement to the general regulations set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations which govern all activities on National Wildlife Refuges.**

**East Unit (Spaced Blind Fee Area)**
**Open for Hunting**: Regular Waterfowl Season dates: open on Saturdays, Sundays and Tuesdays. If the Light Goose Conservation Order is in effect during 2016, the East Unit will be open on Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays until February 28, 2016. Note: This may change depending on weather and marsh conditions.

**Closed for Hunting**: Special Teal Season: closed. Regular Waterfowl Season dates: closed on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Closed during the split and closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

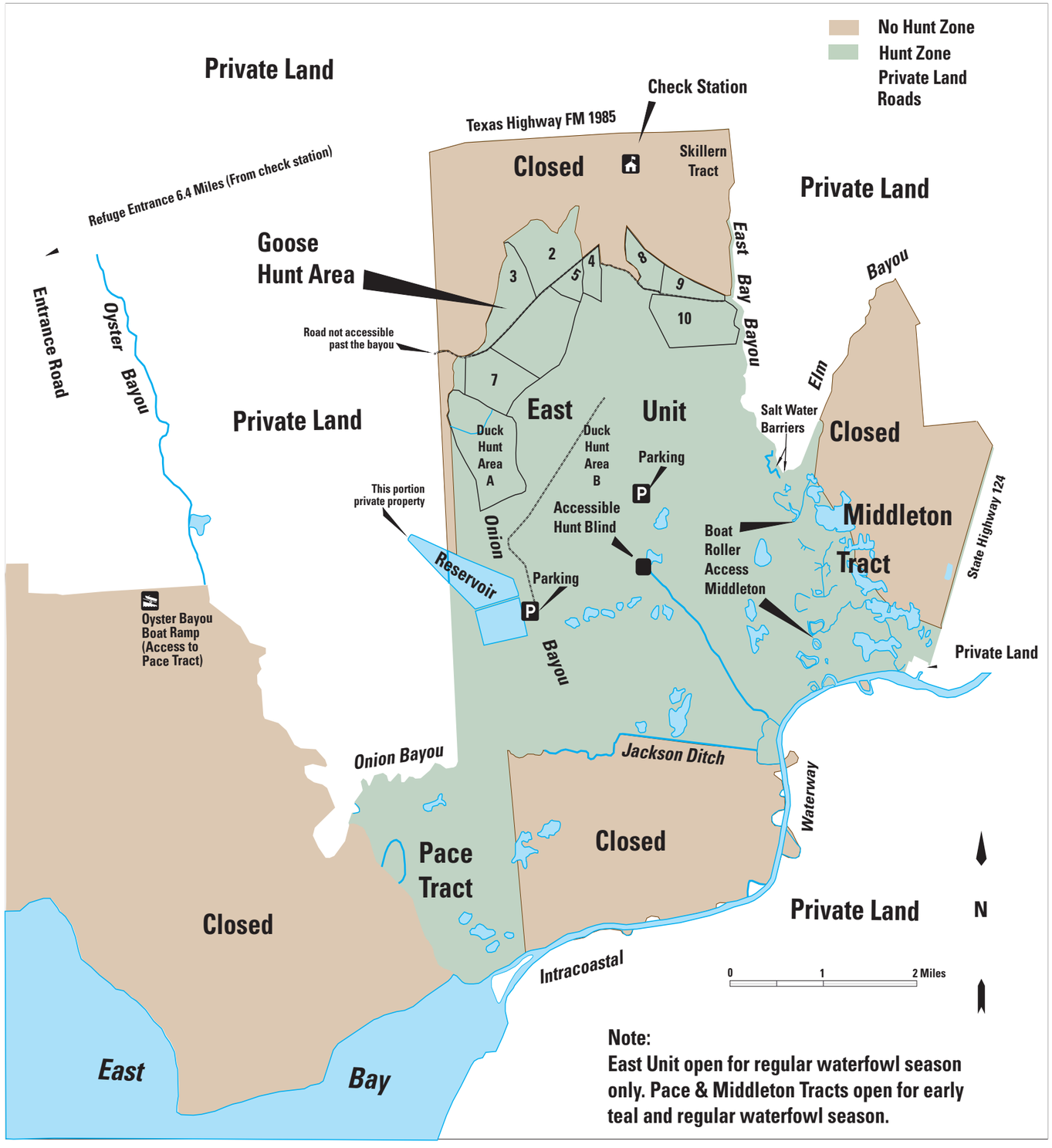
- A maximum of 80 hunters will be permitted to participate in waterfowl hunting in the marsh (not including the Goose Fields or Duck Hunt Areas.
- The entrance gate to the East Unit hunt line will open at 4:00 pm Thursday before the weekend hunt and 4:00 pm Monday before the Tuesday hunt. No hunters will be allowed to enter the Refuge prior to this time.
- Hunters are required to check-in and check-out of the check station off of FM 1985. Hunters will designate a hunt pond on a first come first serve basis the morning of the hunt and will be required to remain in that area for that day's hunt. There are approximately 30 hunt ponds to choose from, as well as, 6 Duck Hunt Areas (lottery draw), an accessible hunt blind and 8 Goose Hunt Fields (first come, first serve). Note: this may change, depending on weather and marsh conditions.
- Hunters 16 years of age and older are required to purchase a $10.00 day use permit or a $40.00 annual use permit. Hunters 16 years of age and older accessing the East Unit by motorized boat via East Bay Bayou or the ponds North of Jackson Ditch via Oyster and Onion Bayou are required to purchase a $40.00 annual permit.
- Access to the East Unit reservoir and ponds 16-17 and 20-22 via Onion Bayou is prohibited.

**Duck Hunt Areas**: Six Duck Hunt Areas will be made available via random drawing the morning of the hunt at 5:00 A.M. A minimum of two hunters and a maximum of six hunters per Special Duck Hunt Area are allowed. Single hunters may participate after group drawing is completed. Hunters must consult the supplemental map for specific Duck Hunt Area 'A' and 'B' locations.

- Duck Hunt Areas are identified by post markers. Hunters must stay within 50 feet of each other unless retrieving waterfowl. Goose hunting is allowed.

**Goose Hunt Fields**: Goose Hunt Fields are given out on a first come first serve basis the morning of the hunt. A minimum of two hunters and a maximum of six hunters per Goose Field are allowed. Duck hunting is allowed.

- Goose Hunt Fields are identified by post markers. Hunters must stay within 50 feet of each other unless retrieving geese. Hunters must have goose decoys to hunt the goose fields.
- Accessible Hunt Blind: Available to hunters with disabilities, possessing a valid accessible placard or license.* First come-first serve. A maximum of three persons permitted in the blind. For more information, call the Refuge office.




**Pace Tract (Non-Fee Area)**

- **Open for Hunting**: Special Teal Season 7 days a week. Regular Waterfowl Season dates 7 days a week. If the Light Goose Conservation Order is in effect during 2016, the Pace Tract will be open 7 days a week until February 28, 2016. Note: This may change depending on weather and marsh conditions.

- **Closed for Hunting**: Closed during the split and closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

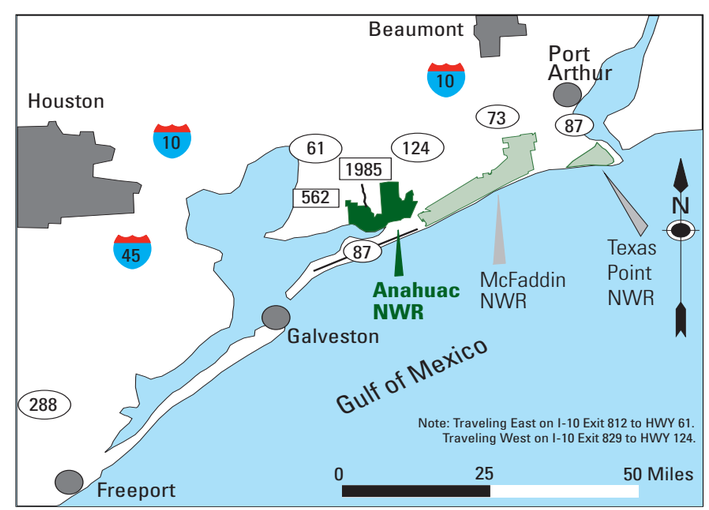
- Access by boat only. Access to the interior of the Pace Tract from bayous or the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway prior to 4:00 A.M. is prohibited.

**Middleton Tract (Non-Fee Area)**

- **Open for Hunting**: Special Teal Season will be open 7 days a week. Regular Waterfowl Season dates: open on Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays. If the Light Goose Conservation Order is in effect during 2016, the Middleton Tract will be open 7 days a week until February 28, 2016. Note: This may change depending on weather and marsh conditions.

- **Closed for Hunting**: Regular Waterfowl Season dates: closed on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Closed during the split and closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

- Middleton Tract is located between East Bay Bayou and State Highway 124. Walk-in access off of Hwy 124 from the feeder road is difficult. Primary access is by boat. Two boat rollers are located on East Bay Bayou for access to the interior waterways of the Middleton Tract. Access to the interior of the Middleton Tract prior to 4:00 A.M. is prohibited.




The signs below apply to the areas behind the signs. Please respect all refuge signs whenever you see them as you travel throughout the refuge.

**National Wildlife Refuge.** This sign marks the boundary of the refuge. Consult refuge management for authorized activities.

**Area Closed.** Certain areas of the refuge are closed to visitors for management purposes. Unauthorized entry beyond this sign is prohibited.

**No Hunting Zone.** This sign marks the boundary of no hunting areas on the refuge. All hunting is prohibited beyond this sign.

**Public Hunting Area.** This sign marks the boundaries of the waterfowl hunting areas.

**Waterfowl Hunting Only.** This sign marks the boundaries of the waterfowl hunting areas.

Hunting on all National Wildlife Refuges is a privilege, please respect it.

**For More Information Contact**

For inquiries about refuge programs and activities, contact the refuge manager at:

Refuge Manager
Anahuac
National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 278
Anahuac, TX 77514
409/267.3337
409/267.4314 Fax
www.fws.gov/refuge/anahuac/

August 2015