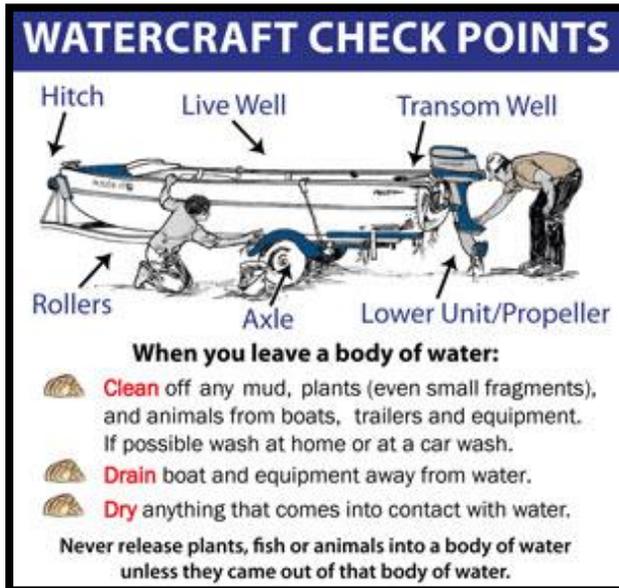


A WORD ABOUT AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are non-native species that cause harm to the environment, the economy, or human health. Lake Champlain is home to 49 known aquatic invasive species (AIS). Many more are “on the doorstep” of Lake Champlain, threatening to enter from nearby waterways. Once introduced to Lake Champlain, AIS have the potential to infest other inland water bodies in the Basin, which is why spread prevention is critical.

Please Help Stop the Spread!



WATERCRAFT CHECK POINTS

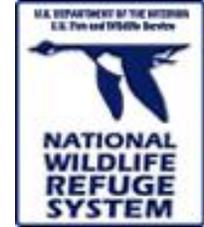
Hitch Live Well Transom Well

Rollers Axle Lower Unit/Propeller

When you leave a body of water:

- Clean** off any mud, plants (even small fragments), and animals from boats, trailers and equipment. If possible wash at home or at a car wash.
- Drain** boat and equipment away from water.
- Dry** anything that comes into contact with water.

Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.



MISSISQUOI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

GUIDE TO BOATING



Missisquoi NWR
29 Tabor Road
Swanton, VT 05488
802-868-4781
missisquoi@fws.gov

Welcome to Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge!

Boating is one of the best ways to see
the Refuge's wetland habitat and
wildlife



This guide will help you plan your trip and
provide important information about where
boating is permitted on Missisquoi NWR



Scan for link to refuge information and maps

Boating Safety

- Always check the weather, conditions on the lake and bay can be very different from the Missisquoi River.
- Wear Personal Floatation Devices (PFD's).
- Tell someone where you are launching from and where you plan to go and when you plan to return.
- Bring plenty of water and food based on the length of your trip. A cell phone is a good idea in case of trouble.
- Wear sunblock and sun protective clothing when necessary. Dress for the weather.
- Observe "no wake" boating especially around canoes and other boats on the river.
- When paddling, don't overestimate your abilities – wind and river currents can increase the difficulty of paddling.
- Avoid using alcohol.
- If using a motorboat ensure back up paddles and push poles are on board and engine is in good working order.
- The Missisquoi River has many submerged trees and changing water depths – be aware and slow down to prevent damage and injury.

Trip Planning – Distances

- Louie's Landing to Missisquoi River Mouth - **4 miles one way, 8 miles round trip.**
- Louie's Landing - Dead Creek loop - **11 mile round trip.**
- Louie's Landing to Dead Creek Mouth – **4.4 miles one way, 8.8 miles round trip.**

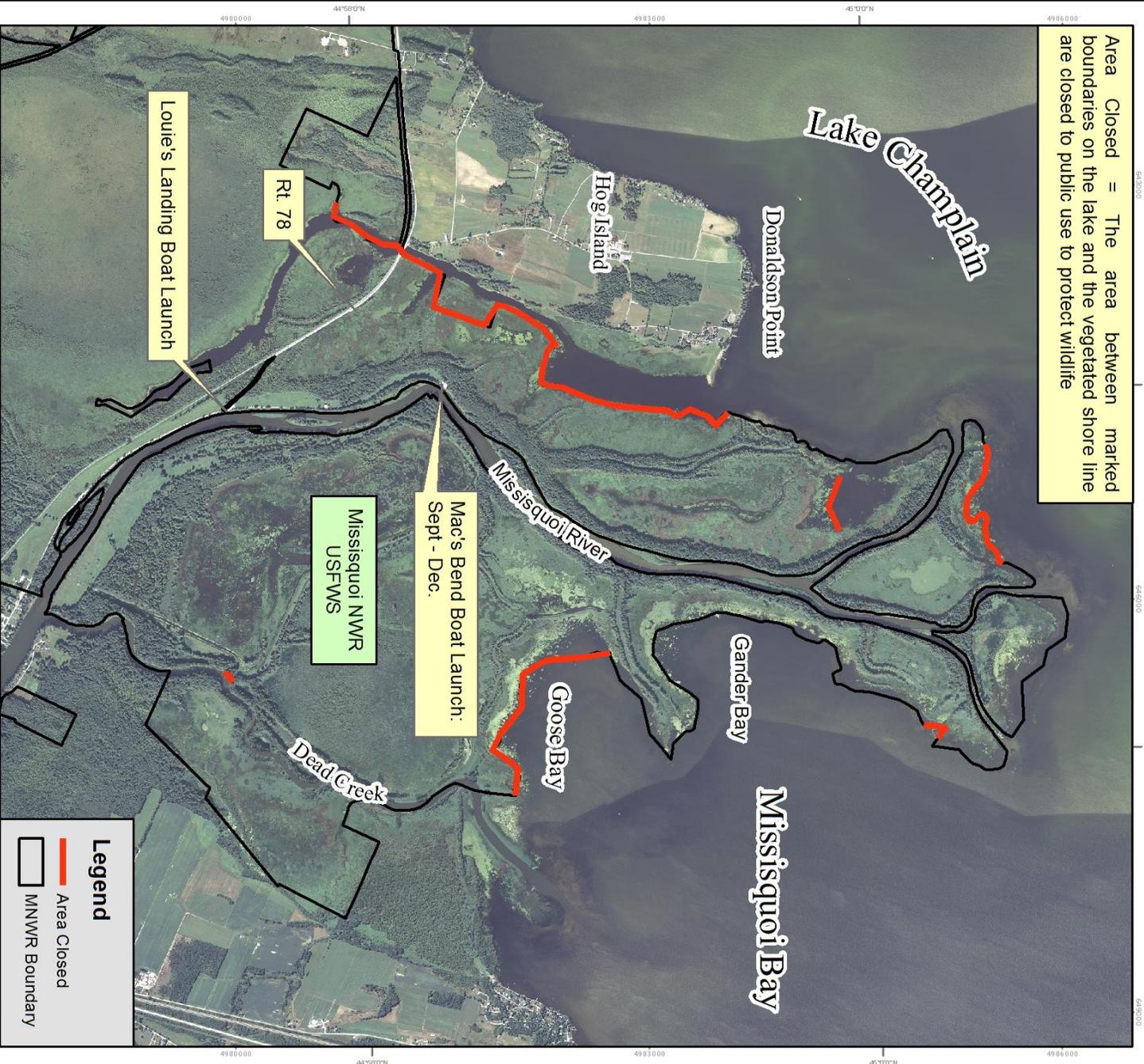


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

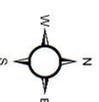
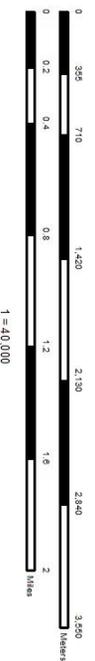
Missisquoi NWR Public Fishing-Boating Map

Areas CLOSED to Fishing and Boating on Missisquoi NWR

Area Closed = The area between marked boundaries on the lake and the vegetated shore line are closed to public use to protect wildlife



Map Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Graphic Units: degrees, minutes, seconds
Map Grid Unit: Meter
Map for planning purposes only



Legend

- Area Closed
- MNWR Boundary

SIGNS TO KNOW



Areas open for angling are marked with **GREEN TAPE** on the top of the boundary buoys. The **GREEN REFLECTIVE TAPE** will indicate that it is open to **AUTHORIZED USES SUCH AS FISHING**. Buoys with an **RED BAND** are **NOT OPEN** for fishing or boating.



This sign is used to mark areas which are closed to all public uses. This includes all uses which are considered **AUTHORIZED** by the refuge.

FOR BOATING AT MISSISSQUI NWR: If you are on the bay or lake and see a buoy with this sign you are not permitted to boat behind the sign to the shore.



This sign marks **sensitive nesting areas**. Please do not enter any areas marked with these signs even when water levels flood the forest.

About the Refuge

Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1943, consists of 6,760 acres and the entire Missisquoi River Delta. Recently designated as a *Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands*, Missisquoi's wetland habitats are protected and managed for a wide diversity of wildlife species and habitats.

Missisquoi NWR was established in part due the large concentration of migrating waterfowl, up to 20,000 birds, which descend on the refuge's wetland habitats during the fall. The refuge is also known for its large great blue heron rookery and osprey populations, both species easily viewed while boating on the refuge.

Where to Launch

Boats and canoes may be launched from **Louie's Landing** off Rt. 78 all season. A second boat ramp, on **Mac's Bend Road**, is open from September – December. The VTFWD maintains a parking lot next to Charcoal Creek which can be used for canoe and kayak launching.

NOTE: Boating is permitted along the Missisquoi River and in Lake Champlain where it borders the refuge. **Portions of the refuge are closed to boaters to protect wildlife and habitat.** Please refer to the map for areas closed to boats.