

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

# **Detroit River**

## *International Wildlife Refuge Hunting Map & Regulations*

**Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge  
Large Lakes Research Station  
9311 Groh Road  
Grosse Ile, MI 48138  
Phone: 734/365 0219**

**People with hearing impairments may reach Detroit  
River International Wildlife Refuge through the  
Federal Relay System at 1-800/877 8339**

**[http://www.fws.gov/refuge/detroit\\_river](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/detroit_river)**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1 800/344 WILD  
[www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)**



### **CONTACTS**

**Michigan Department of Natural Resources**

**<http://www.michigan.gov/dnr>**

**Emergencies .....911**

**Pointe Mouillee State Game Area .....734/379 9692**

**To Report Violations**

**Refuge Law Enforcement Officer .....419/898 0014 x32**

**or [Logan\\_Cannon@fws.gov](mailto:Logan_Cannon@fws.gov)**

**Report All Poaching (RAP) Line .....1-800/292 7800**

**Contact the refuge at 734/365 0219 or  
[DetroitRiver@fws.gov](mailto:DetroitRiver@fws.gov) for more information.**

**September 2012**

## Know Your Signs!



Marks refuge boundary. Does not prohibit access, only unauthorized uses.



Area is closed to public access. Do not trespass behind this sign.



Marks areas that are open only to waterfowl hunting. No other game may be hunted where this sign is posted.

## Welcome to Your Refuge!

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (DRIWR) was established in 2001 to preserve the Lower Detroit River and Western Lake Erie.

DRIWR is within an hour's drive of nearly seven million people in the Detroit, Michigan; Windsor, Ontario; and Toledo, Ohio metropolitan areas. The refuge's acquisition boundary stretches along 48 miles of Detroit River and western Lake Erie shoreline and today, consists of more than 2,000 owned acres divided into 13 separate units located in Wayne and Monroe counties. An additional 5 units totaling nearly 4,000 acres are managed under cooperative management agreements between the refuge and outside landowners.

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge provides a wide variety of wildlife-dependent recreation activities to the public, including environmental education, interpretation, wildlife observation and photography, hunting, and fishing. For more information about Detroit River IWR or other national wildlife refuges, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).

## General Hunting Regulations

The hunting regulations specific to Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge are set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Individuals accessing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles and their contents by federal and state officers.

Michigan state regulations and refuge specific regulations will be enforced. Refuge specific regulations supersede state regulations. Hunting is allowed only on refuge units described in this brochure. Only the species listed in this brochure may be hunted.

## Seasons & Hours

### *Migratory Bird Hunting*

All refuge hunting seasons will coincide with state hunting seasons. For authorized hunting, refuge is open 1½ hours before legal shooting time to 1 hour after legal shooting time.

Migratory bird hunting is allowed in the following refuge units: Humberg Marsh, Calf Island, Sugar Island, Strong, Brancheau, Fix, and Plum Creek Bay. See specific unit regulations. Migratory bird hunting is also allowed below the ordinary high watermark in accordance with State laws and regulations in the following coastal areas: Humberg Marsh, Mama Juda Shoal, Mud Island, Grassy Island, Humberg Island, Calf Island, Sugar Island, Strong Unit, and Brancheau Unit. Hunting from dikes, shore or entry onto uplands of any other refuge unit including Mud Island, Grassy Island, and the mainland portion of the Humberg Marsh unit is prohibited.

### *Waterfowl Hunting by Special Permit Only*

The diked wetland areas of the Brancheau Unit are open to waterfowl hunting by special permit only and will be managed in cooperation with Michigan DNR, Wildlife Division. Hunting will begin on opening day of the general Michigan waterfowl season, and continue every Sunday and Wednesday thereafter in conjunction with managed waterfowl hunts at the Pointe Mouillee State Game Area (SGA). A lottery drawing will assign special permits along with designated zones to hunters at the SGA headquarters each morning at 5:30 a.m. All blinds are accessed by walking from the Brancheau Unit parking lot; no boats allowed. Each hunter is allowed a maximum of 18 shells containing approved non-toxic shot. No shot size larger than #1 shot is permitted. Waterfowl area permits are required and may be purchased at the SGA. Permits are \$4 daily or \$13 annually.

*Big & Small Game* Big game and small game hunting is allowed on the following refuge units: Humbug Marsh (Island portion only), Calf Island, Sugar Island, Strong and Fix. See specific unit regs.

*Weapons* All State approved hunting weapons are permissible on refuge lands. This includes firearms, archery bows and crossbows. In accordance with State regulations, handguns will be permitted for hunting deer, fox, coyote, and raccoon.

*Permissible Shot* Only approved non-toxic shot is permitted while in the field with the following exception: While hunting fox, coyotes and raccoons in units where it is allowed, the use of single projectile shot such as bullets, slugs or muzzleloader bullets containing lead will be permitted. For deer hunting, only single projectile shot may be used. The use of buckshot will not be permitted on refuge lands.

*Do Not Shoot!* Opossum, porcupine, weasels (including mink), skunk, ground squirrel, woodchuck, muskrat, beaver, American crow, European starlings, house sparrows, northern bobwhite (quail), and feral pigeons may NOT be hunted or trapped on the refuge at any time.

*Equipment Removal* All items, including blinds, boats and decoys must be removed from the refuge at the end of each day's hunt.

*Trail Markings* Cutting of woody vegetation on the refuge for blinds is prohibited.

*Portable Tree Stands* Portable tree stands are permitted for deer hunters. Tree stands do not need to be removed at the end of each day's hunt. However, State regulations on the use of tree stands on public land will be strictly enforced.

*Paint & Flagging* The use of paint, flagging, reflectors, tacks, or other human-made materials to mark trails or hunting locations is forbidden.

*Baiting* Hunting over bait and the distribution of bait, including salt licks, mineral blocks, or any chemical substance applied to the ground or vegetation is prohibited on National Wildlife Refuge units.

*Hunting Dogs* The use of hunting dogs, provided the dog is under the immediate control of the hunter, is permitted.

*Camping & Fires* Camping and fires on refuge lands are prohibited.

*ATVs* All terrain vehicles (ATVs) and other motorized vehicles are prohibited on refuge lands.

*Alcohol* The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

### **Humbug Marsh Hunting Regulations**

*Open Water* (from water's edge out into Detroit River)

- *Migratory Birds: Below Ordinary High Water Mark* Goose, duck, merganser, coot, gallinule, woodcock, sora, rail, and Wilson's snipe.

*Mainland* (from water's edge west to Jefferson Avenue)

- CLOSED to all hunting.

*Humbug Island*

- **Big Game:** White-tailed deer and wild turkey.
- **Upland/ Small Game:** Ring-necked pheasant, gray, fox and red squirrel, cottontail rabbit, raccoon, gray and red fox, and coyote.
- **Migratory Birds:** Goose, duck, merganser, coot, gallinule, woodcock, sora, rail, and Wilson' snipe.

### **Hunter Access**

Humbug Island is accessible by boat only. There is no access to water from USFWS property. The closest boat launch is Elizabeth Park Marina or Lake Erie Metropark.

## Calf Island Hunting Regulations

- Big Game: White-tailed deer and wild turkey.
- Upland/Small Game: Ring-necked pheasant, gray, fox and red squirrel, cottontail rabbit, raccoon, gray and red fox, and coyote.
- Migratory Birds: Goose, duck, merganser, coot, gallinule, woodcock, sora, rail, and Wilson's snipe.

## Sugar Island Hunting Regulations

- Big Game: White-tailed deer.
- Upland Game: Ring-necked pheasant, gray, fox and red squirrel, cottontail rabbit, raccoon, gray and red fox, and coyote.
- Migratory Birds: Goose, duck, merganser, coot, gallinule, woodcock, sora, rail, and Wilson's snipe.

### Hunter Access

Calf Island and Sugar Island are accessible by boat only. There is no access to water from USFWS property. The closest boat launch is Elizabeth Park Marina or Lake Erie Metropark.

## Strong Unit Hunting Regulations

### *Northern Portion of Unit*

(from Estral Beach protection dike north to unit boundary)

- Big Game: White-tailed deer, wild turkey.
- Upland/Small Game: Ring-necked pheasant, gray, fox and red squirrel, cottontail rabbit, raccoon, gray and red fox, and coyote.
- Migratory Birds: Goose, duck, merganser, coot, gallinule, woodcock, sora, rail, and Wilson's snipe.

### *Southern Portion of Unit*

(from Estral Beach protection dike south into Village of Estral Beach)

- CLOSED to all hunting.

## Hunter Access

From I-75, take Exit 21 (Swan Creek Rd.) east to North Dixie Hwy. Turn left (northeast) and take North Dixie Highway/US Turnpike to Port Sunlight Rd. Turn right (south) and follow Port Sunlight Rd. about 1 mile to the Strong Unit. Hunter parking area is on left. Boat access is available from Lake Erie.

## Brancheau Unit Hunting Regulations

### *Diked Portion of Unit*

(managed areas inside dikes)

- Big Game: CLOSED.
  - Upland/Small Game: CLOSED.
  - Migratory Birds: PERMIT REQUIRED. Hunters selected via lottery held at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area. Hunt conducted in cooperation with the Michigan DNR.
- Goose, duck, merganser, coot, gallinule, woodcock, sora, rail, and Wilson's snipe.

### *Coastal Wetlands Portion of Unit*

(area outside dikes and open to Swan Creek & Lake Erie)

- Migratory Birds: *Below Ordinary High Water Mark*  
Goose, duck, merganser, coot, gallinule, woodcock, sora, rail, and Wilson's snipe.

### Hunter Access (Diked Portion)

Access to the Brancheau Unit is permitted only with a special permit distributed via lottery in cooperation with the Michigan DNR. SEE GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

From I-75, take Exit 21 (Swan Creek Rd.) east to North Dixie Hwy. Turn left (northeast) and take North Dixie Hwy. to Strong Rd. Turn right (south) and follow Strong Rd. to Trombley Rd. Turn left (northeast) and take Trombley Rd. to Blanchett Rd. Turn right (southeast) and take Blanchett Rd. past the curve to Brancheau

Rd. Turn left (southeast) and follow Brancheau Rd. to the Brancheau Unit parking area on left.

### **Coastal Wetlands Hunter Access**

Brancheau Unit coastal wetlands are accessible by boat only. No access to water from USFWS property. Closest boat launch is Michigan DNR launch located at Dixie Hwy. & Swan Creek Rd.

## **Fix Unit Hunting Regulations**

- **Big Game:** White-tailed deer and wild turkey.
- **Upland/Small Game:** Ring-necked pheasant, gray, fox and red squirrel, cottontail rabbit, raccoon, gray and red fox, and coyote.
- **Migratory Birds:** Goose, duck, merganser, coot, gallinule, woodcock, sora, rail, and Wilson's snipe.

### **Hunter Access**

From I-75, take Exit 21 (Swan Creek Rd.) east to North Dixie Hwy. Turn right (south) and take North Dixie Hwy. to Post Rd. Turn left (east) and take Post Rd. about 1 mile to Leroux Rd. Turn right (southwest) and take Leroux Rd. to Langton Rd. Turn left (southeast) and take Langton Rd. to Toll Rd./Fisher St. Turn left (northeast) and follow to Fix Unit. Hunter parking area is on left.

## **Plum Creek Bay Unit Hunting Regulations**

- **Big Game:** CLOSED.
- **Upland/Small Game:** CLOSED.
- **Migratory Birds:** Goose, duck, merganser, coot, gallinule, woodcock, sora, rail, and Wilson's snipe.

### **Hunter Access**

Plum Creek Bay is accessible by boat only. There is no access to water from USFWS property. The closest boat launch is Bolles Harbor or River Raisin.

# Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge



### Humbug Marsh & Calf Island

- Big Game, Small Game, Migratory Birds
- No Hunting

### Humbug Marsh & Calf Island

### Sugar Island

- Big Game, Small Game, Migratory Birds

### Fix

- Big Game, Small Game and Migratory Birds
- No Hunting
- Walking Access
- Hunting Parking

### Brancheau Strong

- Big Game, Small Game, Migratory Birds
- Special Waterfowl Permit Only
- No Hunting
- Water Access Only
- Walking Access
- Hunting Parking

### Plum Creek Bay

- Migratory Bird Hunting (Water Access Only)
- No Hunting

Lake Erie