

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: June 26, 2018

Contact: Parker River NWR via phone: (978) 465-5753 or e-mail: parkerriver@fws.gov

Refuge Announces Lottery Application Period for Drive-On Surf Fishing Permits

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge will accept applications from July 1-31, 2018 for the refuge's annual allocation of permits for drive-on surf fishing. The refuge will award these permits via lottery in early August. All successful and unsuccessful applicants will receive their status notifications by August 10. Parker River's drive-on surf fishing season runs from September 1 (opening date dependent upon piping plover and least tern fledgling status) through October 31.

To apply to the 2018 Parker River NWR drive-on surf fishing permit lottery, please e-mail parkerriver@fws.gov, type "Drive-On Surf Fishing Permit Lottery" in the subject line, and provide the following information in the e-mail's body:

- The applicant's name, mailing address, email address, and phone number;
- The applicant's Massachusetts saltwater fishing license number or saltwater fishing license number from a state with reciprocity (Rhode Island, Connecticut, or New Hampshire); and
- License plate number, make, and model of the four-wheel vehicle that will be listed on the permit

For applicants without e-mail access, please type or neatly write the above-requested information, minus the e-mail address, on a card (or piece of paper) and mail or drop off the card at the refuge headquarters, located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike in Newburyport, MA 01950. If mailing, please write "Attn: Surf Fishing Lottery" on the envelope. The refuge headquarters is open from 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Eligible drive-on surf fishing vehicles-must have at least one of the following factory-installed devices/items that clearly indicate four-wheel drive capability:

- A clearly marked button/switch that engages a four-wheel drive system and is marked "four-wheel drive," "4WD," or "4x4" or
- A stick or lever that engages a four wheel drive system and is marked "four-wheel drive," "4WD," or "4x4" or
- A label, placard, or similar identifier on the exterior of the vehicle that states four-wheel drive, as long as the identifier is factory-installed, emblazoned, or embedded on the vehicle.

Successful applicants must complete a vehicle and equipment inspection, and pay the \$50 2018 drive-on surf fishing permit fee.

For additional details about the Parker River NWR drive-on surf fishing program, please visit the refuge website https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Parker_River/ and consult the "Refuge News & Publications" section.

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Refuge Announces Lottery Application Period for Berry Picking Permits

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge will accept applications from July 1-31, 2018 for the refuge's annual allocation of fifty (50), free permits for picking beach plums and cranberries. The refuge will award these permits via lottery in early August. All successful and unsuccessful applicants will receive their status notification by August 10. Permittees may harvest beach plums from September 1-30 and cranberries from October 1-November 15.

To apply to the permit lottery, please email parkerriver@fws.gov, type "Berry Picking Permit Lottery" in the subject line, and provide the applicant's name, mailing address, e-mail address, and phone number in the e-mail body. For applicants without e-mail access, please type or neatly print the applicant's name, mailing address, phone number, and "Berry Picking" on a card (or piece of paper) and then mail or drop off the card at the refuge headquarters, located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike in Newburyport, MA 01950. If mailing, please write "Attn. Berry Picking Lottery" on the envelope. The refuge headquarters is open from 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Permittees will receive a copy of the refuge's berry picking regulations and harvest area map when they receive their permit.

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