

**Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge
&
Management Area**

FISHING PLAN

August 2014

Prepared By: _____ **Date:** _____
Heath Hamilton, WRS

Submitted By: _____ **Date:** _____
Bill McCoy, Refuge Manager

Concurred By: _____ **Date:** _____

Approved By: _____ **Date:** _____

Contents

I. INTRODUCTION	3
II. CONFORMANCE WITH STATUTORY AUTHORITIES.....	5
III. STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES	7
IV. ASSESSMENT	8
V. DESCRIPTION OF THE AND FISHING PROGRAM	9
VI. MEASURES TAKEN TO AVOID CONFLICTS WITH OTHER MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	13
VII. CONDUCT OF THE FISHING PROGRAM	14
VIII. REFERENCES.....	16

I. INTRODUCTION

This Fishing Plan formulates the general concept for fishing opportunities on acquired lands as identified in the *Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the establishment of the Patoka River National Wetlands Project (Project)* dated July 1994.

The Project encompasses 22,472 acres in Gibson and Pike counties in southwestern Indiana (see Figure 1). Lands purchased as conservation easements or in fee title are administered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and become units of the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge and Management Area (Refuge) under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 "... for the development, advancement, management, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources..." [16 U.S.C. 742f(a)(4)] "...for the benefit of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, in performing its activities and services. Such acceptance may be subject to the terms of any restrictive or affirmative covenant, or condition of servitude..." [16 U.S.C. 742f(b)(1).]

Patoka River NWR & MA was established in 1994. It was created under authority of the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act in part to protect one of two remaining intact floodplain forest systems within Indiana. The authorized boundary, which delineates where the Service can acquire property from willing sellers, encompasses 22,472 acres of wetlands, floodplain forest, grasslands, shrublands, and upland forest along 20 miles of the Patoka River corridor. Management objectives are identical for the National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), authorized at 6,970 acres, and the Management Area (MA), authorized for the remaining 15,847 acres. The separate designations avoid legal conflicts with the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) of 1977. It has no implications for the management of these areas.

The staff of Patoka River NWR & MA administers three units in addition to the main body of the Refuge. The Cane Ridge Wildlife Management Area (488 acres, fee title, **closed to all public access except non-consumptive uses in designated areas**), White River Bottoms Unit (219 acres, fee title), and Columbia Mine (1,043 acres, conservation easement) are all considered part of the National Wildlife Refuge.

The Refuge provides some aquatic habitat which support fishable populations of game fish, primarily largemouth bass, panfish and catfish.

This Fishing Plan will describe, in detail, the current and future fishing opportunities, how fishing will be conducted, and conflict resolution with other management objectives.

The purposes for which the Refuge was established, as contained in the FEIS and approved in the Record of Decision in 1994, include:

1. To restore, protect, and manage a bottomland hardwood forest for the many values associated with wetlands

2. To restore, protect, and manage uplands that compliment and/or protect wetlands
3. To restore, protect, and manage migratory bird habitat
4. To restore, protect, and manage habitat for endangered and threatened species of plants and animals
5. To increase public opportunities for outdoor recreation and environmental education
6. To provide wildlife extension services and restore habitat in southwestern Indiana according to guidelines of the Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program
7. To improve water quality in the Patoka River watershed to reduce adverse impacts on human health and wildlife productivity, enhance the fishery resource, and increase the attractiveness of the water resources for wildlife-oriented public recreation

The FEIS identified providing compatible wildlife-dependent recreational public uses, such as hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, environmental education and interpretation, as being a primary goal for the Refuge. In the Record of Decision, the Service selected the preferred alternative which stated that hunting and fishing will be permitted on most units of the Refuge in accordance with state seasons. Additionally, fishing was identified in the 2008 Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) as being a priority public use that would be authorized on most units of the Refuge. The Service has determined (i.e., Compatibility Determination included with the 2008 CCP) that these uses are compatible with the purpose of the Refuge and the mission statement of the NWR System.

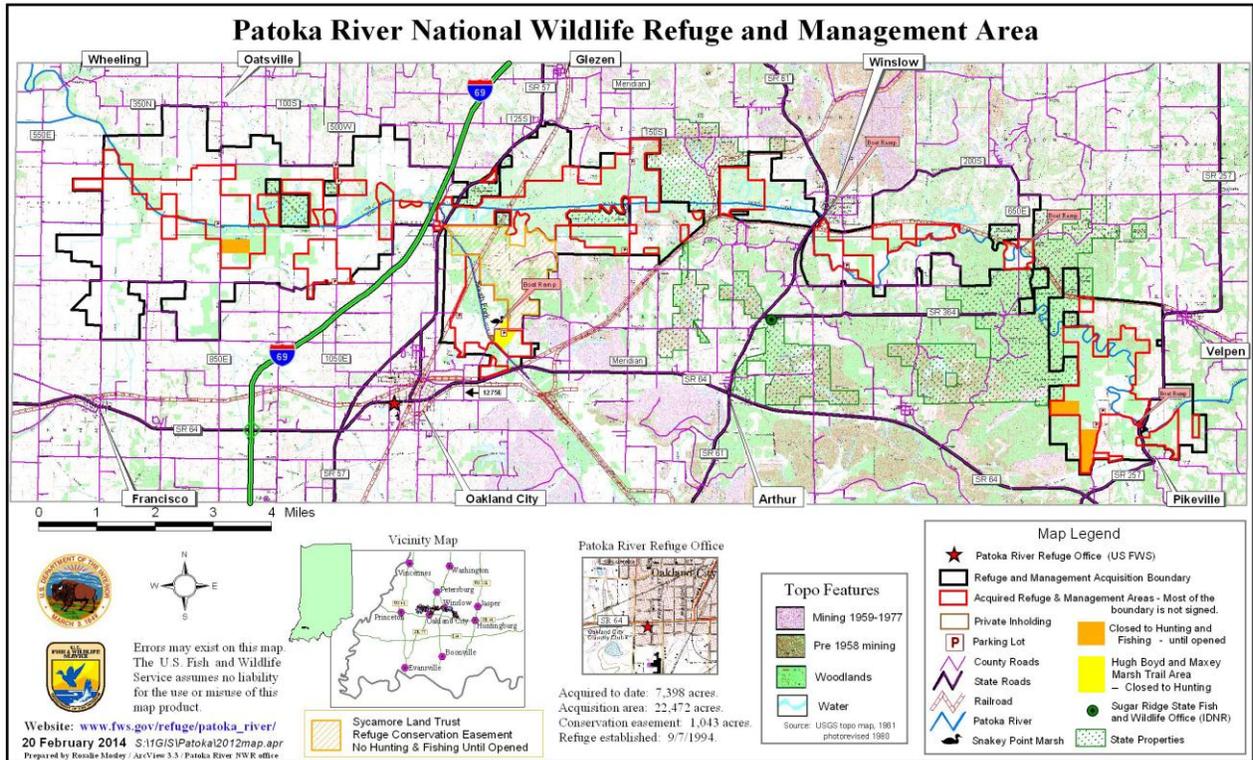


Figure 1. Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge and Management Area, Southwestern Indiana

II. CONFORMANCE WITH STATUTORY AUTHORITIES

The National Wildlife Refuge System includes federal lands managed primarily to provide habitat for a diversity of fish, wildlife and plant species. National wildlife refuges are established under many different authorities and funding sources for a variety of purposes.

The authority for the establishment of the Refuge is the Emergency Wetlands Resource Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-645). The primary source of funds for land acquisition is the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The purpose of land acquisition is for intensifying cooperative efforts among private interests and local, state, and federal governments for the management and conservation of wetlands. Funding for the fishing program will be a part of the Refuge's operation and maintenance fund.

This Fishing Plan has been developed to guide fishing on the Refuge in a manner that allows the Service to fulfill the purposes for which the Refuge was established as well as provide wildlife-dependent recreation.

The 1994 FEIS for the Patoka River National Wetlands Project identified providing compatible wildlife-dependent recreational public uses as being a goal for the Refuge. In the Record of

Decision, the Service selected the preferred alternative which stated that fishing will be permitted on most units of the Refuge in accordance with state seasons. Additionally, fishing was identified in the 2008 Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) as being a priority public use that would be authorized on most units of the Refuge. The Service has determined (i.e., Compatibility Determination included with the 2008 CCP) that this use is compatible with the purpose of the Refuge and the mission statement of the NWR System.

Guidance for authorizing public uses on National Wildlife Refuges is provided in the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act (Improvement Act) of 1997 (USFWS1997). The Improvement Act states, “compatible wildlife-dependent recreation is a legitimate and appropriate general public use of the System...through which the American public can develop an appreciation for fish and wildlife.” The Improvement Act recognizes that wildlife-dependent recreational uses involving hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation, when determined to be compatible, are a legitimate and appropriate use of the Refuge system lands. The Improvement Act states that these specific six uses should receive priority consideration in refuge planning and management. Other uses not listed as priority public uses may be allowed if they are determined to be appropriate and compatible with the purposes for which the Refuge was established.

According to the Improvement Act, when a wildlife-dependent recreational use is determined to be a compatible use and is not inconsistent with public safety, that activity should be facilitated. The term “compatible use” is defined as a wildlife-dependent recreational use or any other use of a refuge unit that, in the sound professional judgment of the Director, will not materially interfere with or detract from the fulfillment of the mission of the System or the purposes of the Refuge. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Final Compatibility Policy (USFWS 2000) pursuant to the Improvement Act delegates the responsibility of determining compatibility to the Refuge Manager with concurrence by the Regional Office Supervisor.

Fishing on the Refuge will allow refuge staff to manage wildlife populations at acceptable levels, provide wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities for the public, and promote a better understanding and appreciation of natural habitats and their associated fish and wildlife resources. Implementation of the proposed actions will be consistent and compatible with the Refuge Recreation Act, the Refuge Administration Act, and the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the establishment of the Patoka River National Wetlands Project.

Relationship to other Plans and Documents

The first Hunting and Fishing Plan for the Refuge was approved in 1996. This plan, along with accompanying paperwork used to fulfill the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements, opened the Refuge to fishing. It considered the biological, environmental, and socioeconomic effects that implementing the preferred alternative and two other alternatives would have on the issues and concerns identified during the planning process. The preferred alternative included opening the Refuge lands to new fishing opportunities.

In 2008 a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment (EA)

for Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge & Management Area was approved. The EA and CCP addressed future management of the Refuge, including visitor services. This Fishing Plan is a step down plan of the CCP, and as such, contains more detailed information describing the fishing program on the Refuge. This plan will also be included as a chapter of the Visitor Services Plan upon its completion.

Upon completion and adoption of this Fishing Plan, the Service will publish in the Federal Register a Proposed Rule that updates the hunting and fishing program on the Refuge. Following the comment period on the Proposed Rule, a determination will be made whether to implement the updated fishing opportunities outlined in this Fishing Plan.

Subsequently, a Final Rule will be published outlining fishing on the Refuge.

III. STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

The Refuge was established in 1994 with primary objectives including:

1. Restore, protect, and manage a bottomland hardwood forest ecosystem for the many values associated with these wetlands.
2. Restore, protect, and manage uplands that complement and/or protect wetlands.
3. Restore, protect, and manage migratory bird habitat, with special emphasis on habitat for wood ducks.
4. Restore, protect, and manage habitat for endangered and threatened species of plants and animals.
5. Increase public opportunities for outdoor recreation and environmental education that are compatible with the primary resource objectives of the Project.
6. Provide wildlife extension services and restore wetland habitat in southwestern Indiana per landowner requests according to guidelines of the Service's Partners for Wildlife Program.
7. Improve water quality in the Patoka River watershed to reduce adverse impacts on human health and wildlife productivity, enhance the fishery resource, and increase the attractiveness of the water resources for wildlife-oriented public recreation.

Fishing program objectives:

The following fishing objectives for the Patoka River Refuge were contained in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, approved by Regional Director Sam Marler in the Record of Decision dated September 7, 1994:

- To allow sport fishing within the framework of Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife regulations, subject to additional regulation by the Service if needed to provide protection for sensitive wildlife species within the Refuge.

- To encourage additional use of the Patoka River's fisheries resources by providing increased/improved access to the river and its oxbows.

The fishing program is in direct support of the Refuge objective to increase public opportunities for outdoor recreation. All proposed fishing activity will be in accordance with state seasons and regulations.

IV. ASSESSMENT

The Service has allowed public fishing and has administered a fishing program on the Refuge since the first Hunting and Fishing Plan was developed in 1996. In the 2014 Refuge Annual Performance Plan (RAPP) it was estimated that 4,800 of the 24,500 total visits to the Refuge per year were for fishing (20%). During the time period since the inception of the first Hunting and Fishing Plan, the Service has not noted any significant adverse effects of this program on the administration on the Refuge and has determined that fishing is compatible with the purposes of the NWR System's mission statement.

Fishery populations present on Refuge lands are considered healthy enough to support recreational fishing. Surveys of the Patoka River done in conjunction with preparation of the EIS verified that populations of those species most often targeted by sport fishermen are sufficient to sustain a recreational fishery. Allowing sport fishing on Refuge lands will not inhibit efforts to attain other priority Refuge objectives.

Most of the Refuge's fishery resources are associated with the Patoka River and its wetlands. Two fisheries surveys of the Patoka River and many of its tributaries in the late 1980s and early 1990s revealed that fish populations were surprisingly diverse and abundant, especially considering the environmental abuses this river has endured over the past 70 years (Stefanavage, 1993; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1989). A total of 66 species of fish representing 15 families were found to inhabit these waters. Although not usually considered prime fish habitat, overall species diversity in the Patoka River in 1991 compared favorably with other southwest Indiana streams (Stefanavage, 1993). Diversity at sampling sites averaged 14 species in the channelized river while the natural river supported an average of 19 species. Fish of interest to commercial and sport fishermen (buffalo, drum, channel and flathead catfish and spotted bass) were more abundant in the unchannelized section.

The common carp was found to be the most abundant species. Gizzard shad, an important food source for more desirable predatory fish, was the second most abundant. Third in number was smallmouth buffalo, an edible species frequently sought by anglers. Of the more popular game fish, channel and flathead catfish probably provide the best sport fishing opportunities in this

section of the river. Largemouth bass, bluegill, and crappie offer substantial fishing opportunities in oxbows and reclaimed mineland lakes within the Refuge boundary.

As more land is acquired and the magnitude of the fishing program is expanded, potential public use conflicts will be minimized by addressing the needs of specialized programs such as environmental education or non-consumptive wildlife use. This could entail delineating closed areas for fishing or by manipulation of fishing times and dates.

There are no known administrative conflicts associated with the proposed fishing program. All features of the program are in compliance with state and federal objectives for the region. The Indiana DNR controls significant acreages adjacent to or within the Refuge acquisition boundaries and fishing is currently allowed on these lands.

V. DESCRIPTION OF THE FISHING PROGRAM

Most of the Refuge supports fishable populations of game species. Most of the Refuge is open to the public for some type of recreational use (hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, interpretation, photography, and or environmental education).

Current Opportunities

Areas open to fishing currently include nearly 7,110 acres within the Refuge (Figure 1) and 219 acres in the White River Wildlife Management Unit (fee title transfer from U.S.D.A.) located near Petersburg. The Refuge land ownership pattern will be constantly changing as new land is acquired. These lands will be considered for inclusion in the fishing program, and the Refuge staff will file an annual amendment to the plan for publication in the Federal Register to update and identify new areas available for these activities. This annual amendment process will continue until the Refuge is fully acquired.

Fishing periods will correspond with state regulations. As additional lands are acquired and Refuge management programs are instituted, it may become necessary to impose some regulations that are more restrictive than state laws (ie: closed areas, size limits). These modifications will be included during the annual amendment process through the Federal Register, and the public will be informed through media and posting. Fishing success will be monitored by random interviews of fishermen utilizing Refuge lands.

Consultation will be made with Indiana DNR District Fishery and Wildlife Biologists and Fish and Wildlife Area Property Managers to discuss the merit and success of the Refuge's fishing program, the status of the area's fish and game resources, and to consider recommendations for program modifications via the annual amendments.

Law enforcement activities will be conducted jointly by FWS law enforcement personnel and the local Conservation Officers of the Indiana DNR.

Sport Fishing

State regulations apply as to license, seasons, sizes, limits, methods of take, and species of fish to be taken with the following exceptions:

1. Limb lines, jug lines, trot lines, and snares are prohibited as the method of catching fish in refuge waters other than the Patoka River
2. Fishing is permitted in daylight hours only

The minimum size limit for largemouth bass on Snakey Point Marsh is 14 inches.

Minnows, crayfish, frogs, and turtles are protected and may not be collected or harvested.

Boats

On refuge property, motorboats are only permitted on Snakey Point Marsh **east** of the South Fork and on Patoka River.

Motorboats on Snakey Point Marsh are restricted to **slow speed/minimum wake**.

To minimize disturbance to wildlife, gasoline powered motorboats **are not permitted** on **other** refuge waters.

Air boats are prohibited on **all** refuge waters.

Boats may not be left on refuge property overnight.

General Refuge Regulations

Motorized Vehicles

All motor vehicles must remain on maintained roads and parked so as not to interfere with other traffic. **Off-road vehicles** are not permitted on refuge lands.

The following activities are prohibited on Patoka River NWR&MA:

Littering/dumping including spent shotshell casings

Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting.

Target practice or random shooting

Camping/overnight parking

Trapping furbearers

Open campfires/swimming

Taking or attempting to take any wildlife not authorized in these refuge regulations.

Taking, cutting or destroying any plants or parts thereof including flowers, fruits, nuts, fungi, herbs, shrubs or trees other than specified for temporary blind construction.

Use of off-road vehicles, horses, mules, llamas and bicycles other than on maintained road rights-of-ways.

Marking trails with tape, ribbons, paper, paint, tree blazes, etc.

Baiting or hunting over bait including salt.

Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles.

Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery, beads, etc. Use of metal detectors or digging for artifacts.

Spotlighting prohibited by State regulations.

Use of fireworks.

Unless specifically listed as a permitted use, all uses of natural resources on the refuge are prohibited.

New Fishing Opportunities for 2014 and Beyond

In this Fishing Plan, the Service is proposing public fishing opportunities on newly acquired lands while allowing current opportunities to continue for 2014 and beyond. As mentioned, newly opened lands will be subject to the same restrictions outlined above.

Under the proposed plan for 2014, the Service would open all fishable habitat on 1,334 acres of recently acquired land (fee title and conservation easement) to fishing.

I. Columbia Mine Tract (Conservation Easement)

The Columbia Mine Unit of Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge and Management Area (Refuge) consists of 1,043 acres in Pike and Gibson Counties, acquired for protection in 2012. It is private property, owned by Sycamore Land Trust, Inc. , and managed as part of the larger Refuge complex by the Refuge. Because the Columbia Mine Unit is private property, it is

subject to different public access and use regulations than other parts of the Refuge.

The management objective for this property is to provide appropriate public access, while protecting the property's conservation values in a way that is consistent with the objectives for the Refuge and Sycamore Land Trust. The entire property, minus a closed buffer area around the Bald Eagle nest, will be open to fishing. Fishing will take place according to Federal regulations, state seasons, and the following specific regulations for all specified species.

Sport fishing is permitted in the lakes and ponds on the Columbia Mine Unit. Fishing is permitted from banks or from boats 14 feet long or less and with hand-powered or electric trolling motors only. Additional regulations regarding boats are listed below.

Access to lakes and ponds on the Columbia Mine Unit will be from the nearest parking area, or roadside parking along the county road on the property. Some ponds may be closed to fishing temporarily for issues of wildlife management or safety. Signs will be posted if/when this occurs.

Limb lines, jug lines, trot lines, and snares are prohibited as the method of catching fish in the Columbia Mine Unit.

Fishing is permitted from half-hour before legal sunrise to half-hour after legal sunset only.

Minimum size limit for largemouth bass on Snakey Point Marsh and other lakes and ponds is 14 inches.

Minnows, crayfish, and all reptiles and amphibians are protected and may not be collected or harvested.

Anglers using live bait are encouraged to use earthworms only (as opposed to other forms of live bait), as a means to decrease the spread of exotic invasive species in Columbia Mine Unit water bodies.

General Refuge restrictions on bait, if any, will apply to Snakey Point Marsh.

Dumping fish or other animals, plant material, or water into lakes or ponds in the Columbia Mine Unit is prohibited.

II. Bruce Tract

This 80 acre tract in Gibson County, IN was acquired in 2013. The entire unit would be open to fishing according to Federal regulations, state seasons, and Refuge specific regulations for all specified species.

III. Spitler Tract

This 207 acre tract in Pike County, IN was acquired in 2013. The entire unit would be open to fishing according to Federal regulations, state seasons, and Refuge specific regulations for all

specified species.

IV. McCandless Tract

This 2.3 acre tract in Gibson County, IN was acquired in 2014. The entire unit would be open to fishing according to Federal regulations, state seasons, and Refuge specific regulations for all specified species.

V. Sycamore Land Trust (Singer) Tract

This 1.7 acre tract in Pike County, IN was acquired in 2014. The entire unit would be open to fishing according to Federal regulations, state seasons, and Refuge specific regulations for all specified species.

Consultation and Coordination with the State

National Wildlife Refuges, including Patoka River NWR & MA, conduct fishing programs within the framework of state and federal regulations. All authorized fishing opportunities are at least as restrictive as the State of Indiana. By maintaining fishing regulations that are as, or more, restrictive than the state, individual refuges ensure that they are maintaining limits which are supportive of management on a local and regional basis. The Refuge has moved forward with developing this Fishing Plan based upon earlier formal coordination with the INDNR as well as the intervening informal discussions. The results of this coordination are reflected in this Fishing Plan. Patoka River NWR & MA will continue to consult and coordinate with the INDNR to maintain regulations and programs that are consistent with the state; as well as to monitor populations of game species and set harvest goals.

Methods of Control and Enforcement

The enforcement of Refuge and State fishing regulations, trespass and other public use violations normally associated with management of a National Wildlife Refuge is the responsibility of commissioned Refuge Law Enforcement Officers. The Law Enforcement Officer on the Refuge cooperates with, and is assisted, by state, county and city police officers as well as state conservation officers. The procedures used for obtaining law enforcement assistance are based on the legal jurisdiction where incidents occur. The Refuge regularly meets with the various state, city and county law enforcement agencies to develop agreements and strategies to ensure law enforcement operations are performed as safely and efficiently as possible.

Funding and Staffing Requirements

No current staff time is allocated for coordinating fishing activities other than informing visitors of fishing regulations, updating Refuge maps depicting fishable areas and newly acquired lands, and updating Refuge regulations and plans.

VI. MEASURES TAKEN TO AVOID CONFLICTS WITH OTHER MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Biological Conflicts

The Refuge avoids conflict related to biological resources by adopting the “wildlife first” principle explicitly stated in the Refuge Improvement Act. Staff monitors species population trends to ensure that target species can be fished for on the Refuge without adversely affecting the species. These monitoring activities include direct observation of populations, consultation with State and Service species specialists, and review of current species survey information and research. The Refuge could limit or exclude fishing activities on portions of Refuge units to avoid conflicts related to biological resources.

The federally endangered Indiana bat, Interior least tern, whooping crane, and protected bald eagle have been documented on the Refuge. The proposed opening of the Refuge to fishing will not conflict with the recovery and/or protection of these species. Attached and included in this proposal is a Section 7 analysis and an Environmental Assessment specifically for the fishing program.

Public Use Conflict

In an effort to avoid conflicts with non-fishing priority recreational uses as outlined in the Improvement Act, and for safety, the Refuge enforces a series of refuge-specific fishing regulations. The boundary of most lands owned by the Service are posted with Refuge boundary signs. Areas administratively closed to fishing will be clearly marked with “No Fishing Zone” or “Area Beyond This Sign Closed” signs.

Public use conflicts will be minimized through close coordination with other public agency programs conducted on lands near the Refuge's fishing zones. The most significant of these involves the Indiana DNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife. No conflicts are anticipated.

Administrative Conflicts

Refuge management activities can be accomplished without conflict with fishing activities through the use of administratively closed areas, timing of fishing, size limits, and methods of fishing.

VII. CONDUCT OF THE FISHING PROGRAM

Fishing Regulations

Regulations Pertaining to all National Wildlife Refuge System Lands

Regulations pertaining to fishing on all National Wildlife Refuges are found in 50 CFR 32.5. They state:

§ 32.5 What are the requirements for sportfishing on areas of the National Wildlife Refuge System?

The following provisions shall apply to each person while engaged in public sport fishing on a wildlife refuge area:

- (a) Each person shall secure and possess the required State license.
- (b) Each person shall comply with the applicable provisions of Federal law and regulation including this subchapter.
- (c) Each person shall comply with the applicable provisions of the laws and regulations of the State wherein any area is located unless the same are further restricted by Federal law or regulation.
- (d) Each person shall comply with the terms and conditions authorizing access and use of the wildlife refuge area.
- (e) Each person must comply with the provisions of any refuge-specific regulation governing fishing on the wildlife refuge area. Regulations, special conditions, and maps of the fishing areas for a particular wildlife refuge are available at that area's headquarters. In addition, refuge-specific sport fishing regulations appear in §§ 32.20 through 32.72.

The regulations, as they are published in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), are the official notification to the public. Copies of the CFR can be found in libraries and on the internet.

A general synopsis of regulations relating to hunting and fishing on the Refuge units, as well as all other National Wildlife Refuges in Indiana, is published the Indiana Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook and the Indiana Fishing Guide, both produced by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Annual updates to Refuge regulations are provided to the INDNR for review and publication. State hunting and fishing regulations applicable to the Refuge, such as seasons, bag limits, and general methods of take also are published in the Handbook and Guide.

Anticipated Public Reaction to the Fishing Plan

Conflicts between fishing and environmental education, interpretation, hunting, and wildlife observation are expected to be minimal as these uses are similar to state Wildlife Management Areas, state forests, and other public lands scattered across Southwest Indiana.

Fishing Application and Registration

For general fishing activities no special application or registration process is required.

Announcing and Publicizing Openings, Closings, and Modifications

As with previously developed changes to the Refuge fishing programs, this plan will be available for public review for a period of 30 days. All openings, closings, and modifications will be documented in the Code of Federal Regulations once per year.

Entry and Access Procedures

There are no special entry or access procedures for fishermen using the Refuge. For specific access questions please contact the Refuge Manager at:

Patoka River NWR & MA
Oakland City, IN 47660
812-749-3199

Fishing Requirements

Fishermen who are eligible to fish under Indiana law are allowed to fish on Refuge units.

The Refuge does not routinely require fishermen to report on fishing activities or harvest. Should an additional reporting program be implemented, the Refuge will use the appropriate form approved by the Office of Management and Budget.

VIII. REFERENCES

National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act of 1997. Pub. L. No. 105–57, 111 Stat. 1252 (2007).

Stefanavage, Thomas. 1993. Fisheries Survey of the Patoka River in Gibson and Pike Counties. 1991 Fish Management Report. Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indianapolis.

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2008. Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge and Management Area Comprehensive Conservation Plan. U.S. Dept. of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 3, Fort Snelling, MN.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1994. Final Environmental Impact Statement Patoka River National Wetlands Project. U.S. Dept. of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 3, Fort Snelling, MN.