

Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting Regulations

Welcome

Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1962 by transfer of federal lands formerly managed by the Federal Aviation Administration as a WWII Army Airfield. The refuge's 2,824 acres consist of saltwater marsh, grassland, mixed deciduous woods, and freshwater impoundments. In combination, these habitats support a diversity of wildlife species and provide important sanctuary and nesting areas for resident and migratory birds.

Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge
c/o Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex
694 Beech Hill Lane, Hardeeville, SC 29927
843-784-9911, ext. 111 (Office)
843-226-5738 (Mobile)
Email: savannahcoastal@fws.gov
Website: www.fws.gov/refuge/harris_neck
Facebook: www.facebook.com/savannahcoastalrefugescomplex

The refuge is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a national network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.

<http://www.fws.gov>

1-800-344-WILD

Accessibility

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. For more information please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, www.doi.gov/pmb/eo/public-civil-rights.

General Information

Permit Procedures

All hunters, 16 years of age or older, are required to purchase, and carry while hunting, the Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex Annual Hunt Permit. This permit will allow hunters access to all "non-quota" hunts on any of the following National Wildlife Refuges: Blackbeard Island, Harris Neck, Pinckney Island, Savannah, and Wassaw NWRs. Annual Hunt Permits are \$25, non-transferable, and valid for the current hunt season only (August – May). To purchase a permit, please visit savannahcoastal.recaccess.com. If it is your first time purchasing a permit through RecAccess, you will need to complete the one-time registration process. Once your account is set-up, you can purchase the permit. Please retain your user ID and password for RecAccess for future permit purchases. If you are unable to access the internet, please call the refuge hunt coordinator at (843) 226-5738.

State Licenses

Hunters are responsible for obtaining the required state license(s). A state WMA permit is not required to hunt the refuge.

Access

Hunters access the Refuge by vehicle through the main entrance gate during designated timeframes (see General Hunting Regulations below). Boat access is prohibited during hunts.

The Refuge is closed to the general public on all hunt days.

Tree Stands

Hunters may place one stand on the refuge during the week preceding the hunts. Hunters assume all responsibility for the loss or damage of personal property left on the refuge. Stands must be removed at the end of each hunt.

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

General Hunting Regulations

Hunting regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting is permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable state of South Carolina regulations subject to the conditions stated below.

Public hunting at Harris Neck NWR is permitted on approximately 2,500 acres. Certain areas are closed to hunting (see refuge hunt map below). There are two hunts held annually; a 3-day archery hunt and a 1-day firearm hunt for deer and feral hogs (see table below for dates).

Hunters must check in at refuge headquarters the morning of each hunt day; **between 5 am and 6 am during the archery hunt, and between 4:30 am and 5:30 am during the firearm hunt.** Hunters will be allowed to exit and re-enter the refuge between 9 am and one hour prior to evening stand hours. Entry and exit must be through the entrance gate only. All hunters must be checked out and off the refuge no later than 2 hours after sunset.

Deer harvested during the hunt must be checked by refuge personnel before leaving the refuge. All deer must be tagged with state deer tags. Antlerless deer tags will be issued (free) at the deer check station.

Youth hunters (age 15 and under) must be supervised by a licensed adult, and must remain within sight and normal voice contact with the adult at all times. An adult may supervise only one youth hunter.

All hunters must wear at least 500 square inches of solid, unbroken fluorescent orange material visible above the waistline during the firearm hunt.

Hunters must be on their stands from one-half hour before legal sunrise until 9 am and from two hours before sunset until one-half hour after legal sunset.

Vehicles are restricted to the designated auto tour route; two-way traffic will be permitted. Entry by boat is prohibited.

For additional regulations, see "Prohibited Activities" section.

State hunting regulations, seasons, methods of take, bag limits, and license/tag requirements apply to all hunting on the refuge, unless stated otherwise in the table below:

Hunt Type	Season Dates	Method of Take	Bag Limit	Hunt Area	Other Regulations
Deer & Feral Hog (Archery)	September 17, 18, & 19, 2020	State authorized bow	5 deer (no more than 2 antlered) – State bonus tags will be issued for two.	See hunt map	Refuge hunt permit required for all hunters age 16 and older. State regulations apply.
Deer & Feral Hog (Firearm)	November 13, 2020	State authorized shotgun, muzzleloader, bow	5 deer (no more than 2 antlered) – State bonus tags will be issued for two.	See hunt map	Refuge hunt permit required for all hunters age 16 and older. State regulations apply.

Prohibited Activities

- Hunting closer than 100 yards of Harris Neck Road, the refuge entrance drive, refuge headquarters, Barbour River Landing, Barbour River Landing Road and Gould’s Cemetery.
- Camping and fires
- Possession or use of poison or poison pods
- Distribution of bait, and hunting over bait
- Participating in “man drives” for deer
- Trapping
- Harming, harassing, or killing any other wildlife than game species being hunted
- Hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been screwed or driven to support a hunter
- Pruning/limbing of live trees
- Use of trail or game cameras
- Use of flagging, blazing, painting, or trail marking devices for locating stands or for any other purpose
- Use of dogs for hunting
- Target practice
- Possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting

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