

Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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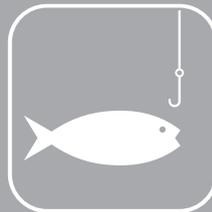


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Missisquoi

*National
Wildlife Refuge*

Fishing



Welcome to Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge was established in 1943 and is managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The 6,590-acre refuge and the surrounding area provide an important feeding, resting and breeding area for migratory birds, particularly waterfowl. The varied habitats of Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge support other wildlife also, including mammals, reptiles, fish and amphibians.

Season

Sport fishing on Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge follows all Vermont fishing regulations. This includes open seasons, limits and methods of fishing. Consult the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's Annual Guide to Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Laws for information. The guide is available at the refuge headquarters. Responsible sport fishing can provide a quality recreational experience for visitors of all ages.

Species

A great variety of fish abound in the waters in and surrounding Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge. Walleye, northern pike, largemouth bass, bullhead, white perch and yellow perch are the most sought after fish on the delta. Other species caught include: burbot, carp, catfish, bowfin, white and red sucker, American eel, chain pickerel, muskellunge, sheephead, crappie, gar, pumpkinseed, smallmouth bass and rock bass.

Suggested Baits/Fishing Tips

Walleye



R. Savannah

Minnnows, mayfly larvae, hellgrammites, bucktail jigs trailing a pork rind, plastic worms or nightcrawlers. Walleye are active night feeders often feeding in shallow water near shore.

Northern Pike



Large minnows, weedless silver spoons with pork rind, spinner baits, rattle traps, red-eye wigglers or red and white spoons. Coves with aquatic vegetation, edges of lily pads, shorelines with many fallen trees

and driftwood, deep still pools, eddies and backwaters are favorite haunts.

Largemouth Bass



Plastic worms, spinner baits, jig and pig, or live shiners or frogs. Fish around wood, weeds, rocks or sunken islands. Fishing in early morning or evening is best.

Bullhead



Minnnows, crayfish, corn kernels, hellgrammites, bread balls and nightcrawlers are good bait. Bullheads usually bite best at night or during the day when the water is muddy after a heavy rain.

Yellow Perch



Worms, mayfly larvae or a small spinner with a strip of pork. Ice fishing for perch is generally good all day.

Areas Open to Fishing

Sport fishing is permitted year round on most of the refuge; however, some areas are closed all year or seasonally to prevent impacts to wildlife.



From April – November closed areas are marked to provide undisturbed nesting and resting areas for endangered osprey, threatened black terns and other migratory birds. Observe these closed area signs while on the refuge.

Bank fishing is permitted along Charcoal Creek where it passes under Route 78 and along the shore line of the Missisquoi River from refuge headquarters to Mac's Bend boat launch. Bank Fishing is accessible only by foot from Louie's Landing to Mac's Bend.



Special Conditions

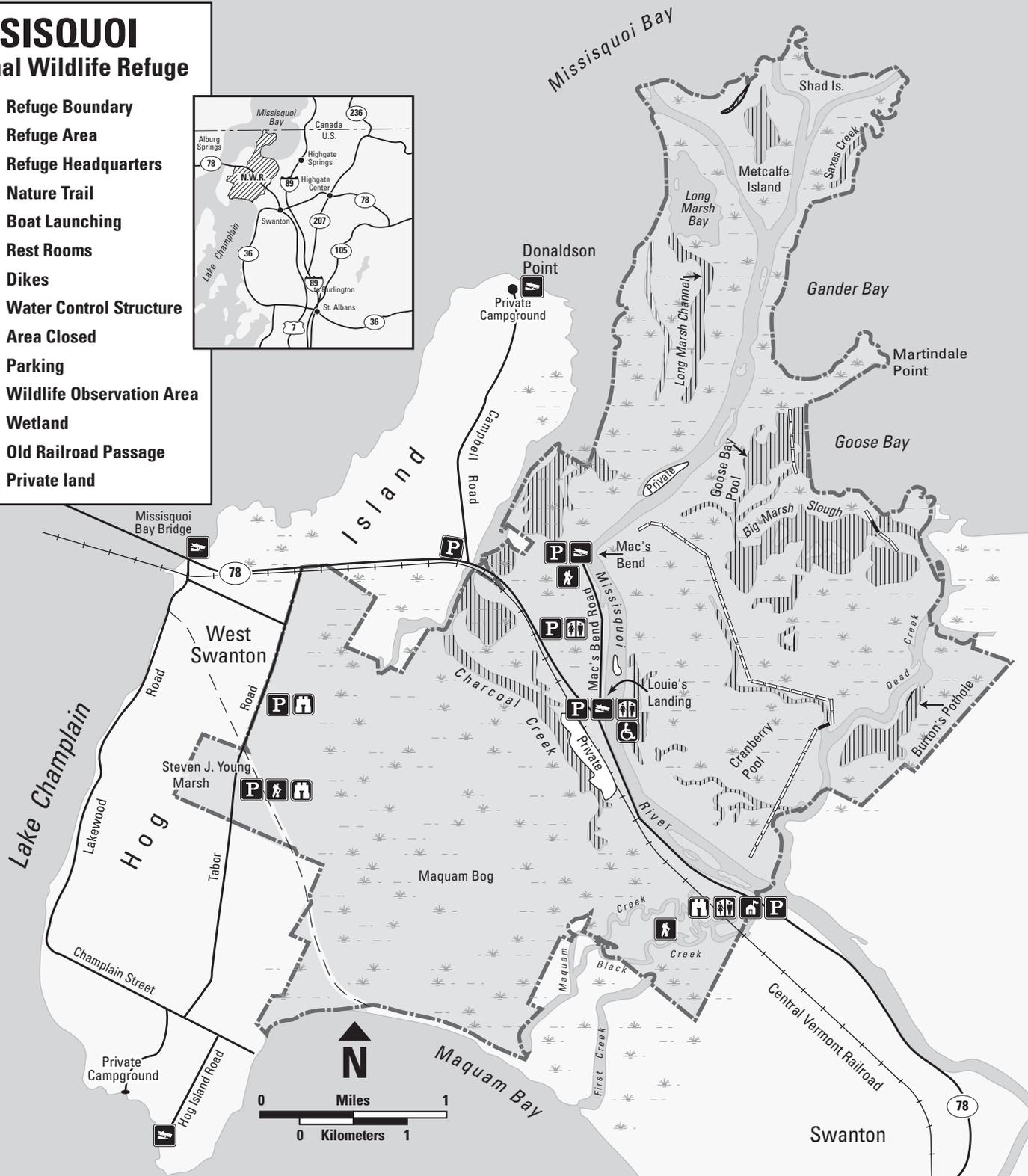
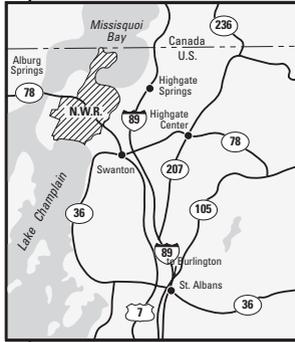
Fishing access is available for disabled individuals at Louie's Landing.

- A valid state fishing license is required to fish on the refuge.
- The use of firearms to take fish is prohibited.
- To protect wildlife and visitors — camping, open fires, cutting

MISSISQUOI

National Wildlife Refuge

-  Refuge Boundary
-  Refuge Area
-  Refuge Headquarters
-  Nature Trail
-  Boat Launching
-  Rest Rooms
-  Dikes
-  Water Control Structure
-  Area Closed
-  Parking
-  Wildlife Observation Area
-  Wetland
-  Old Railroad Passage
-  Private land



firewood, littering and leaving vehicles overnight is prohibited and subject to state and federal prosecution.

- To minimize exposure to potentially harmful contaminants and to protect your health, follow the consumption advisory guidelines listed in the Annual Vermont Guide to Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Laws handbook when eating fish caught in Vermont.

Help Stop the Spread of Zebra Mussels, Eurasian Watermilfoil and Water Chestnut

Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, water chestnut and other exotic species threaten Vermont's waters and may impact local fisheries. These nuisance aquatic species are not native to Vermont, but are currently found in several lakes and ponds, and can be inadvertently introduced into other waters by boaters traveling between waterbodies. Once introduced, they grow unchecked and can disrupt the entire ecosystem, harming native fish, plants, and animals. Adult zebra mussels can be found attached to any firm surface in the water, including vegetation, boats and engines. Missisquoi River and Bay are excellent habitat for Eurasian watermilfoil and water chestnuts. To help stop the spread of nuisance aquatic species when moving between waterbodies, remember to:

- Remove all vegetation attached to boat or trailer;
- Rinse your boat and equipment with tap water or hot water at a car wash and dry for five days in the sun;
- Learn to recognize nuisance aquatic species; and
- Not discard live bait into Lake Champlain.

Let's Get The Lead Out!

Over the past several years, more than one-half of the loons found dead in Vermont were determined to have died of lead poisoning. Loons and other water birds mistakenly ingest lead fishing tackle while picking grit off lake bottoms, and in some cases while robbing anglers of their bait. Anglers can help loons and other wildlife by switching to nontoxic sinkers made of bismuth, tin, steel, tungsten and high-density resin putties. Please call us or stop by the refuge headquarters to participate in our lead sinker exchange program.



Catch and Release

Discarded fishing line is also harmful to wildlife. Discard it and all other trash responsibly.

If you catch a fish that you are not going to eat, release it immediately so another person fishing can enjoy it.

Take a Kid Fishing

National Fishing Week is celebrated annually at the refuge with a Youth Fishing Derby held on a Saturday in early June. For details, call 802/868 4781.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Missisquoi is one of more than 530 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The National Wildlife Refuge System is a network of lands and waters managed specifically for the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat and represents the most comprehensive wildlife management program in the world. Units of the system stretch across the United States from northern Alaska to the Florida Keys and include small islands in the Caribbean and South Pacific. The character of refuges is as diverse as the nation itself. The Service also manages national fish hatcheries and provides federal leadership in habitat protection, fish and wildlife research, technical assistance and conservation of migratory birds, certain marine mammals, and threatened and endangered species.