

# Parker River

## National Wildlife Refuge

### Drive-On Surf Fishing Information

A limited number of permits are issued to people who wish to drive onto the Refuge beach before, during, or after hours for the express purpose of surf fishing. Permits are available beginning sometime in July or August. The drive-on surf fishing season begins around September 1 and extends through October 31<sup>st</sup>. The beginning of the season may be influenced by the piping plover breeding season.

**Motor vehicle access to the Refuge beach is for fishing purposes only.** If you are not fishing, you cannot be on the beach with your vehicle. Drive-on permit holders and all individuals over 13 yrs old must be actively fishing at all times. Any MA resident 16 yrs and older must have a MA Division of Marine Fisheries recreational salt water fishing permit. For non-MA residents, a salt water fishing permit from NH, RI, and CT can be used in lieu of a MA permit. A federal salt water fishing permit cannot be used to fish in MA saltwater.

**PERMIT FEE:** \$50. In addition to the permit fee, anglers must pay the daily entrance fee (\$5/vehicle, \$2 walk-on/bicycle). Annual entrance passes are also available.

**MOTOR VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS:** Drive-on permits will only be issued for vehicles equipped with conventional four wheel drive (pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles). Such qualifying vehicles must have a factory installed knob, insignia, button or shifter that clearly says “4WD” or “4 Wheel Drive. *All-wheel drive vehicles do not qualify and will not be permitted.*

**REQUIRED EQUIPMENT:** Vehicles must have a valid state registration and inspection sticker and be equipped with the following items: (1) shovel, (2) jack, (3) board for jack support, (4) inflated, standard-size spare tire, (5) tire pressure gauge, and, (6) tow strap/chain/cable. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** When accessing the beach, Drive-On applicants *must* possess a rod and reel for each person older than 13.

**SIGNING IN:** A self sign-in/sign-out book is located at Lot 1. **Every drive-on permit holder must sign in and out each time they go on or off the beach.** You may access the beach every day if you sign out before sunset each time you come on. Vehicles may leave and return to the beach and Refuge during their two night period but their two-night stay will begin on the day of their first entry which extends beyond sunset regardless of whether they stay the second night. If the two night stay clock kicks in, then the vehicle will have to be off the beach for 48 hrs (and cannot use a walk on permit to continue fishing).

All permit holders must carry their permit on or about their person. Permits are NOT transferrable but do include all vehicle passengers. All permitted vehicles must display a valid permit decal (issued with the Refuge Use Permit) on the driver's side, lower corner of the windshield.

**VEHICLE ACCESS:** Refuge entry is from sunrise to sunset. Vehicle beach access is ONLY via BB1 (North Beach Access) four wheel drive trail located .5 miles (.8 kilometers) south of entrance gatehouse (see map). Access to the beach might be closed at any time due to storms, high tides, or other reasons.

**NOTE:** Vehicles are prohibited from driving North of BB-1 at any time (see map) and beyond the southern drive-on boundary (to be determined by conditions). Vehicle Access to Sandy Point State Reservation is prohibited! To minimize disturbance of migrating shorebirds, please drive with caution on the beach.

#### ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS:

- Camping on the beach, and anywhere else on the refuge (including the parking lots), is prohibited.
- All fires, of any kind (including gas grills and stoves), are prohibited.
- Vehicles cannot run over the wrack nor drive near the base of the dunes or dune edges nor travel on wet sand. It is suggested that tire pressure not exceed 15 psi. **The maximum vehicle speed limit on the beach is 10 mph.**
- Leaving a vehicle on the beach unattended is prohibited.

- Riding on a fender, roof, tailgate, open pickup bed, or any exterior portion of a vehicle is prohibited.
- Erecting a tent is prohibited.
- Deep, vehicle-created ruts/holes must be immediately filled by those responsible.
- Rods/lines must be kept within 20 feet (6 meters) of the shoreline to avoid conflicts with other beach users.
- From sunset to sunrise each person 13 years of age or older must have surf fishing gear and be actively engaged in surf fishing while on the beach.
- All trash must be packed out.

**Permits are at all times subject to discretionary revocation by the Refuge Manager.**

