

Parker River

National Wildlife Refuge

Drive-On Surf Fishing Information - 2021

If beach conditions allow, a limited number of drive-on surf-fishing permits are issued annually via a free lottery drawing. Application period is from: July 1-July 31, 2021. Please submit your name, address, phone number, email, surf fishing license number and vehicle license plate and description. Drop off or mail to : Attn: Drive on Lottery, 6 Plum Island Tpke, Newburyport, MA or email to parkerriver@fws.gov. One entry per name and license plate and surf fish license. Parker River's Drive-On surf fishing season runs from September 1st (opening date dependent upon piping plover and least tern fledgling status) through October 31st. Any necessary updates will be announced on the refuge's Facebook page and via press release.

Motor vehicle access to the refuge beach is for fishing purposes only. Drive-On permit holders and passengers aged 14 or older must be actively fishing at all times. Any MA resident aged 16 or older must have a MA Division of Marine Fisheries recreational saltwater fishing permit. Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island residents may use a saltwater fishing license from their home state in lieu of a MA permit, as per MA regulations.

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 for \$20.

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 are prohibited.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT: Vehicles must have a valid state registration and inspection sticker and for safety, 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 permit holders must possess a rod and reel for each person aged 14 or older.

SIGNING IN: A sign-in/sign-out board is located at Lot 1. Every Drive-On permit holder must sign-in and sign-out each time that they enter or exit the beach. Permit holders may not fish overnight on the refuge for longer than two consecutive nights. Permit holders may fish every day if they do not stay beyond midnight any given night. Permit holders must have their permit with them at all times. Permits are not transferrable, but do cover all vehicle passengers. The permit holder's designated vehicle must display a valid Drive-On permit decal (issued with the refuge permit) on the driver's side, lower corner of the windshield.

VEHICLE ACCESS: Refuge entry is from sunrise to sunset; however, vehicles may exit the refuge at any time. Vehicle beach access is only via BB1 (North Beach Access) access trail, located .5 miles south of entrance gatehouse (see map). Beach access may be temporarily prohibited due to storms, high tides, or other safety 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 the annual beach condition).

ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS:

- Camping and erecting tents is prohibited throughout the refuge.
- Open fires, including propane grills, are prohibited (50 CFR § 27.95).
- Vehicle operators are prohibited from driving on the wrack, near the base of the dunes, or on wet sand.
- The maximum vehicle speed limit on the beach is 10 mph. Tire pressure should not exceed 15 PSI.
- Leaving an unattended vehicle on the beach is prohibited.
- Riding on a fender, roof, tailgate, open pickup bed, or any exterior portion of a vehicle is prohibited.
- Deep, vehicle-created ruts/holes must be immediately filled by responsible vehicle operator.
- Rods/lines must remain within 20 feet of the water to reduce conflicts with other beach users.

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

