

News Release

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge

2145 Key Wallace Drive

Cambridge, MD 21613

Fax: 410-228-3261

Email: fw5rw_BWNWR@fws.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ray Paterra or Thomas Miller

Date: September 9, 2016

Phone: 410-228-2677

Blackwater NWR Announces 2016 - 2017 Waterfowl Hunt

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) has released details for hunting waterfowl on the refuge during the 2016- 2017 season. Designated hunt units at the refuge can be reserved each week of the hunt via phone on a first come, first served basis. Waterfowl hunting on the refuge will take place only on Wednesdays and Saturdays, October 15 –22, November 12- 23, December 14, 2016 – January 28, 2017. Complete details concerning the waterfowl hunt, including a regulation/instructional brochure, FAQ sheet, hunt maps, and boat access photos, must be obtained through the refuge's website at: <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/blackwater/visit/hunting.html> .

A total of seven (7) hunt units will be available for hunting during the early season in October and November: three (3) units on the Blackwater River west of Route 335, two (2) units at Beaver Dam Creek, and two (2) units at Goose Dam Creek. A total of six (6) hunt units will be available during the late season (December and January): two (2) each at Barren Island, Spring Island, and Bishopshead in the Chesapeake Bay. All hunt units are only accessible by boat. Retriever dogs are permitted. Hunters are encouraged to make a scouting trip to their desired hunt unit prior to hunting.

Hunters wishing to reserve a hunt unit must follow the refuge's call-in procedure. Reservations will be taken each Monday from 8:00am to 9:00am for hunt days available that week, note exceptions due to holidays. Hunters must call the refuge's reservation line at 410-221-8155. Only the individual with the reservation, and up to three additional individuals, will be allowed to hunt each unit. Each hunter must possess a signed waterfowl hunt permit.

There is no fee for waterfowl hunting on the refuge. All hunting will follow Maryland State regulations and bag limits. In addition to a refuge waterfowl hunting permit, a hunter must be in possession of a valid Maryland State waterfowl hunting license, Federal Migratory Hunting and Conservation (Duck) Stamp, Maryland State Waterfowl Stamp, and government issued photo identification. If you have any questions about the hunt, please call 410-228-2677.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.

-END-