

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
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News Release



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U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE PROHIBITS BAITING ON ALL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

GROSSE ILE, MICHIGAN – Opportunities for hunters in southeast Michigan increased this fall as select units of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge were opened to the activity. In total, over 300 acres of lands owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Wayne and Monroe counties were opened to hunting, an addition that has been well received by most.

“Hunting is one of the six wildlife-dependent recreational activities prioritized within the National Wildlife Refuge System. It is deeply rooted in America’s heritage and an integral part of the culture here in southeastern Michigan. We’ve received a lot of positive feedback from the public and we look forward to increasing opportunities for hunters on the refuge as new lands are acquired,” states Refuge Visitor Services Manager, Jamie Lanier.

Staff at Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge work closely with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to both manage and enforce these new hunting opportunities on refuge lands, and while most state regulations are applicable on refuge units, some are not.

Federal Law Enforcement Officer Logan Cannon encourages everyone to take the time to familiarize themselves with refuge –specific regulations, “Michigan’s regular firearm season begins on November 15th, and we want to remind hunters that ALL BAITING is prohibited on National Wildlife Refuges. Any hunter found baiting on Refuge lands will be ticketed.”

Today, 556 national wildlife refuges exist all across the United States and in U.S. territories, and baiting as a practice is prohibited on each of them, regardless of location, because it is considered to alter game

animal behavior and game habitat.

The guiding principles of the National Wildlife Refuge System's hunting programs as outlined in the *U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Manual* are to:

- Manage wildlife populations consistent with approved Refuge System-specific management plans;
- Promote visitor understanding of and increase visitor appreciation for America's natural resources;
- Provide opportunities for quality recreational and educational experiences;
- Encourage participation in this hunting tradition deeply rooted in America's natural heritage and conservation history; and
- Minimize conflicts with visitors participating in other compatible wildlife-dependent recreational activities.

For more information on hunting in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and a copy of refuge-specific regulations, please visit the Refuge website: www.fws.gov/refuge/detroit_river.

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge includes more than 5,700 acres along 48 miles of the lower Detroit River and western Lake Erie. The Refuge focuses on conserving, protecting, and restoring habitat for 29 species of waterfowl, 23 species of raptors, 31 species of shorebirds, over 100 species of fish, and over 300 species of birds. It is the first international refuge in North America and one of a few urban refuges in the nation. Unique habitats being managed within the Refuge include islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals and waterfront lands.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is, working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service is both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation. Visit www.fws.gov to learn more.

For additional information, contact Assistant Refuge Manager Steve Dushane at 734-692-7604 or Visitor Services Manager Jamie Lanier at 734-692-7649.

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