U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Pea Island
National Wildlife Refuge

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Regulations

While there are many federal*, State, and local laws and policies that apply to activities on Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, several merit special emphasis in order to clearly communicate their intent to the public. The regulations discussed in this fact sheet do not cover the full list of prohibited activities on this refuge. If you have any questions as to whether or not an activity is allowed, please take a moment to check with refuge staff.

1. Daylight Use Only: The refuge is open daylight hours only (1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset). The comfort station, located at the Visitor Center, is open 24 hours/day. Night time surf fishing is allowed September 15 – May 31 annually and requires a permit. All other exceptions must be authorized by the Refuge Manager.

2. Unleashed Pets: All pets must be properly confined, leashed (10 foot maximum), or haltered and under physical control by the owner at all times. Pets are not allowed outside the vehicle west of NC Highway 12 except in parking areas.

3. Camping and Fires: Neither camping nor fires are allowed on the refuge.

4. Vehicles on Beach: Vehicles are prohibited on refuge beaches. This includes passenger vehicles, all terrain vehicles, bicycles, all other vehicles (motorized or nonmotorized), and horses. This regulation does not apply to wheelchairs. Vehicles are allowed on designated roadways (NC 12 Right-of-Way) and parking areas only.

5. Feeding of Wildlife: It is illegal to feed wildlife on the refuge.

6. Public Nudity: Public nudity is prohibited on Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. This includes exposing female breasts or pubic areas and/or male sex organs. Exception: a woman may breast feed in any location where she is authorized to be present.

7. The interior of North Pond is closed to all public entry. Refuge visitors may walk completely around the pond on the service road or walking trails; however, they may not walk, wade, paddle, fish, crab, or otherwise enter the water or marsh sections of the pond.

8. Kiteboarding and the use of Personal Watercraft are prohibited.

9. Non-wildlife dependent meetings/assemblies (weddings, surfing competitions, etc.) are unauthorized [in accordance with 50 CFR 26.36]

* In accordance with 50CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) 28.31: (a)

Any person who violates any of the provisions, rules, regulations, posted signs, or special regulations of this subshapter C, or any items, conditions or restrictions in a permit, license, grant, privilege, or any other limitation established under the subchapter C shall be subject to the penalty provisions of this section.