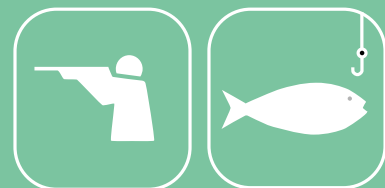


Lake Ophelia

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 1999-2000



To: _____



Lake Ophelia
National Wildlife Refuge
401 Island Road
Marksville, Louisiana 71351
318/253 4238
<http://www.fws.gov/~r4eao>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD

July 1999

The Refuge

Lake Ophelia National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1988 primarily to preserve wintering and breeding habitat for waterfowl, is located in the Red River flood plain in east central Louisiana. Public hunting and fishing is permitted in designated areas during specific times of the year. Special arrangements can be made to accommodate persons with bona fide disabilities by contacting the refuge office.

Individuals utilizing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles, and their contents by refuge officers.

To ensure your safety and enjoyment while visiting Lake Ophelia, please take the time to become familiar with the following regulations.

General Regulations

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to protect the sportsman as well as wildlife populations. The regulations below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting and fishing on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting and fishing will be in accordance with applicable state laws and regulations subject to the following regulations.

The refuge is open to public access during daylight hours (one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset) only.

Weapons and Ammunition

Firearms, archery tackle, and crossbows are permitted on the refuge only during designated refuge hunts. Firearms carried in vehicles or boats must be unloaded. Loaded is defined as shells in gun or caps on muzzleloader. Archery tackle and crossbows must be uncocked with arrow uncocked



from string. Only .22 caliber rimfire rifles and shotguns are permitted except during muzzleloader deer hunts.

Possession of shot larger than that legal for waterfowl hunting is prohibited; use or possession of lead shot is prohibited refuge wide. During quota youth and muzzleloader deer hunts, lead ammunition legal for taking deer may be used. Small game, furbearers, feral hogs, beaver, nutria, and coyotes may be hunted with .22 caliber rimfire lead ammunition during seasons open for those species.

Permits

Permits are required for all hunters and fishermen 16 years old and older, and for all terrain vehicle (ATV) use on the refuge. Permits are available at the Refuge Headquarters located at Grand Cote National Wildlife Refuge, 7 miles west of Marksville, LA on Highway 1194. Office hours are Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 4:00 pm. Permits may also be ordered by mail at Refuge address shown on the front of this brochure. Request for permits must include name, address, drivers license number and \$12.50 (money order or cashier's check; personal check not accepted). Refuge permits authorize participation in all refuge hunting and fishing except quota muzzleloader deer hunts. The permit must be signed and in your possession whenever hunting, fishing, or using an ATV on the refuge, and acknowledges your understanding of refuge regulations.

Quota Muzzleloader Deer Hunt Application

Print your name, address, and birth date on one side of a 3x5 index card or standard postcard.

Indicate the hunt area for which you are applying (Area 1 or Area 2, see map), and rank the hunts in order of preference.

To apply as a group (**maximum of five hunters per group**) list required information for all applicants on the same card. All applications must be signed by at least one applicant.

Applications for quota muzzleloader deer hunts will be accepted from July 12 until close of business (4:00 pm) on August 31, 1999. Duplicate, unclear or incomplete applications will not be considered. Applicants will be selected via random drawing and will be notified by September 30.

Permits are non-transferrable and must be in the hunter's possession at all times while on the refuge during the permitted hunt. Only hunters with valid quota permits are permitted in the hunt area during quota hunts.



Motorized Vehicles

All motorized vehicles are restricted to roads that are delineated on refuge map. Exceptions: Standard manufacturer's high flotation all-terrain vehicles or ATV's (3,4-wheelers and Hustlers) with a maximum tire pressure of 5 psi, as indicated on the tire by manufacturer, are permitted only on trails designated by ATV signs. ATV trails are open from September 15 through the last day of squirrel/rabbit season. The Duck Lake trail is open March 1 to October 15 for fishing access.

ATV's are allowed only for wildlife dependent activities. The maximum legal speed for any land vehicle is 35 mph.



Prohibited Activities

The following activities are prohibited on Lake Ophelia National Wildlife Refuge.

Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting

Littering

Camping / overnight parking

Taking of wildlife or plants (including cutting trees or brush) other than specified in this brochure.

Target practice

Baiting or hunting over bait, salt or any attractant

Hunting within 100 feet of any designated road or ATV trail

Marking trails with tape, paper, paint, etc., and/or possession of flagging tape

Trapping

Riding horses or mules

Possession of saws, saw blades, and/or machetes

Fires

Spot-lighting - artificial light may not be used to locate wildlife.

Man-drives for deer or feral hogs

Crawfishing and frogging

Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads, pottery or other artifacts.

Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles.

Driving or screwing a nail, spike or other metal object into a tree or to hunt from any tree in which such an object has been driven; or using climbing spikes.

Specific Hunting Regulations

State bag limits apply unless otherwise specified. The only seasons open are listed in this brochure.

Hunting is permitted north of Grand Lake Rd. and east of Buck Rd. (see map).

Hunters under 16 years of age must possess proof of completion of an approved Hunter Safety Course and be accompanied (in sight and in normal voice contact) at all times by an adult 21 or older. Each adult must have a refuge permit and can supervise only one youth during deer hunts and not more than two youths during all other hunts.

Archery hunters (regardless of age) must possess proof of completion of the International Bowhunter Education Course.

All hunters are required to complete a bag report and deposit it in one of the marked containers before leaving the refuge regardless of species and number bagged.

All hunters and anglers must enter and exit the refuge hunt area at designated parking lots only.

Migratory bird and small game hunting is prohibited during refuge quota muzzleloader deer hunts.

All deer taken on quota muzzleloader hunts must be checked at a refuge check station on same day killed.

Only portable deer stands may be used. All hunting stands must be removed from the refuge after each day's hunt.

Beaver, Feral Hogs, Nutria, and Coyote may be taken incidental to any daytime refuge hunt with weapons legal for that hunt until the daily bag limit of game is taken. EXCEPT feral hogs may not be taken during squirrel and rabbit dog seasons. Hunting hogs with dogs is prohibited.

Sport Fishing Regulations

Sport fishing is permitted only in Lake Ophelia, Duck, and Westcut Lakes and in the immediate vicinity of the Lake St. Agnes drainage culverts on the Red River.

Use of gear or equipment other than hook and line to catch bait fish is prohibited.

Fishing is permitted from March 1 through October 15 during daylight hours only.

Outboard motors larger than 25 horsepower are prohibited. Boats may not be left on the refuge overnight.

Yo-yo's are permitted during daylight hours only.

Largemouth bass must be a minimum of 14 inches long. Possession of largemouth bass less than 14 inches long is prohibited on the refuge.

Black and white crappie (white perch) must be a minimum of 10 inches long. Possession of crappie less than 10 inches long is prohibited on the refuge.

Possession of cleaned or processed fish on the refuge is prohibited.

Creel limits, boating safety, and license requirements are in accordance with state regulations unless otherwise specified in this brochure.

1998-99 Hunting Seasons Type	Season Dates	Specific Regulations
Squirrel (no dogs)	Oct. 2 - 31, 1999 & refuge Waterfowl season dates and times	Non-toxic shot required
Squirrel (with/without dogs)	Jan 15 - Feb. 6, 2000	Non-toxic shot required
Rabbit (no dogs)	Oct. 2 - 31, 1999 & refuge Waterfowl season dates & times	Non-toxic shot required
Rabbit (with/without dogs)	Jan 15 - Feb. 6, 2000	Non-toxic shot required
Raccoon	Open during squirrel and rabbit seasons during daylight hours only.	Non-toxic shot required
Deer (Archery)	Nov. 1, 1999 - Jan. 31, 2000 CLOSED during refuge muzzleloader season and youth deer hunt.	Either sex. One deer per day.
Deer (Muzzleloader)		Special Quota Permit Required, Either sex, one deer per hunt, hunter orange required, hunters must check in and out at a manned check station.
	Hunt 1 Hunt 2 Hunt 3	Dec. 4-5, 1999 Dec. 7-9, 1999 Dec. 11-12, 1999
Deer (Youth Hunt)	Nov. 6 - 7, 1999	Either sex, one deer per day, shotguns with slugs or 00 buckshot only, hunter orange required, youth hunters must check in and out at a manned check station, adult supervision required.
Waterfowl (with/without dogs)	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday until noon during the second split of the state season. Closed during muzzleloader hunts.	Boats, blinds, and decoys must be removed daily. Federal regulations pertaining to waterfowl hunting apply. Only recognized retriever breeds permitted.
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day	State Zone Date	All refuge waterfowl hunting regulations apply.
Woodcock and Snipe (with/without dogs)	State Woodcock Season Closed during muzzleloader hunts.	Non-toxic shot required. Only recognized bird dog breeds permitted.