

News Release

**Department of the Interior / U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Cameron Prairie NWR
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Bell City, LA 70630
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Cameron Prairie and Lacassine Alligator Harvests will take place in September

Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex Wildlife Biologist, Roy Walter, announced that the annual alligator harvests will take place on Cameron Prairie and Lacassine National Wildlife Refuges from September 11th through September 20th, 2006. Each of the permitted hunters will use the standard hook and line sets to fill their tag allotment. Managers of each National Wildlife Refuge caution boaters and anglers to stay away from alligator sets which contain baited hooks and possibly hooked alligators. It is a violation of State and refuge regulations to tamper with alligator sets, including poles, lines or bait.

As hunters check their lines and travel to launch areas, their boats can become heavy and hard to maneuver. Boaters are asked to take care when passing. As mentioned within Boater Safety Courses, you are responsible for damage caused by your wake. All National Wildlife Refuge visitors are asked to stay clear of boat launch areas and hunters. All boaters are reminded to wear life jackets. Drowning is the leading cause of death for boaters across the United States. For additional information about National Wildlife Refuge programs call 337-598-2216.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System that encompasses more than 540 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands, and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.