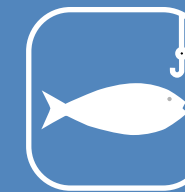


J.N. "Ding" Darling

National Wildlife Refuge Fishing and Boating Regulations

2000



To:

J.N. "Ding" Darling
National Wildlife Refuge
1 Wildlife Drive
Sanibel, Florida 33957
941/472 1100
<http://southeast.fws.gov>

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

July 2000



Non-residents are required to have a saltwater fishing license to crab.

Blue crabs may be harvested with hand-held dip nets only.

Use of bait or traps is prohibited.

There is a limit of 20 crabs per person per day; only 10 may be female. Harvest of egg bearing crabs prohibited.

All refuge waters, including Tarpon Bay, are zoned slow speed/minimum wake. **Caution: Watch for endangered manatees.**

Two launch areas for boats, canoes, and kayaks are located on Wildlife Drive. Refer to map for locations.

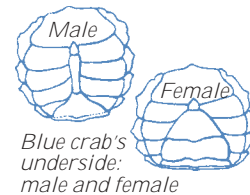
Launch site #1 is in the non-motorized boat zone. Motorized boats must pole or paddle through the non-motorized boat areas of the Refuge.

Launch site #2 is in the motorized boat zone. Boats may operate motors from this site.

Boats over 14 feet in length are not permitted to launch off of Wildlife Drive. This rule does not apply to non-motorized canoes and kayaks. All waters on the left side of Wildlife Drive are closed to all boating.

Personal Watercraft (jet skis, waverunners, etc.) are prohibited in refuge waters, including Tarpon Bay.

Crabbing Regulations



Blue crab's underside: male and female

Boating Regulations

Refer to map on back.

Non-residents: All non-residents 16 years of age and older must have a freshwater license to fish for freshwater fish.

Freshwater fishing on the refuge is allowed at Island Inn Pond and Airplane Canal at the Bailey Tract.

When releasing fish, certain procedures will ensure their recovery from being caught:

To minimize damage to the fish, use plain steel hooks or plain steel with bronze finish instead of stainless steel, and preferably barbless.

Release fish as soon as possible with a minimum of handling.

Fish have a protective coat of "mucus" that should not be removed. Do not handle or hold fish with cloth, metal tongs, leather, etc. Wet your hands to avoid removing mucus.

If the hook is engaged in the body of the fish, cut the line an inch from the mouth. The hook will decompose in three or four days.

Do not land a fish to be released by netting, dragging it on the ground, or allowing it to flop around on the bottom of the boat.

Gently return the fish into the water, do not throw it back.

If the fish is weak and sluggish, it can be "resuscitated" by holding it gently in the water (head pointed towards current) and moving it slowly in a forward and backward motion, one to two feet, until it can swim away. This will provide oxygenated water to the gills.

Catch and Release

Welcome to the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge offers excellent fishing opportunities and quiet, scenic areas in which to boat. The care and protection of natural resources is our primary goal. **All Florida state laws apply to fishing in the refuge. In addition, there are specific refuge regulations for fishing and crabbing.** If you should have questions, please contact the refuge staff at the Visitors Center or call 472-1100.

Fishing licenses are available on Sanibel Island at Tarpon Bay Recreation Area, Bailey's General Store, and The Bait Box.

Note: Lead fishing tackle prohibited in refuge waters.

Residents: Residents between 16 and 64 years old must have a saltwater license to fish from a boat. Residents do not need a license to fish for saltwater fish from the bank.

Non-residents: All non-residents (except those under 16) must have a saltwater license to fish for saltwater fish in all locations.

Saltwater fishing from shore is allowed on both sides of Wildlife Drive. Sport cast netting is also permitted (only personal use of bait fish and 50 mullet per person, per day).

Most areas of water on the left side of Wildlife Drive are closed to the public. These areas are posted "Area beyond this sign closed."

Residents: Residents between 16 and 64 years old must have a freshwater license to fish for freshwater fish. Residents of Lee County may take freshwater fish without a license if they use a cane/bamboo pole without a reel and are fishing within Lee County.

Fishing Regulations Fishing Licenses

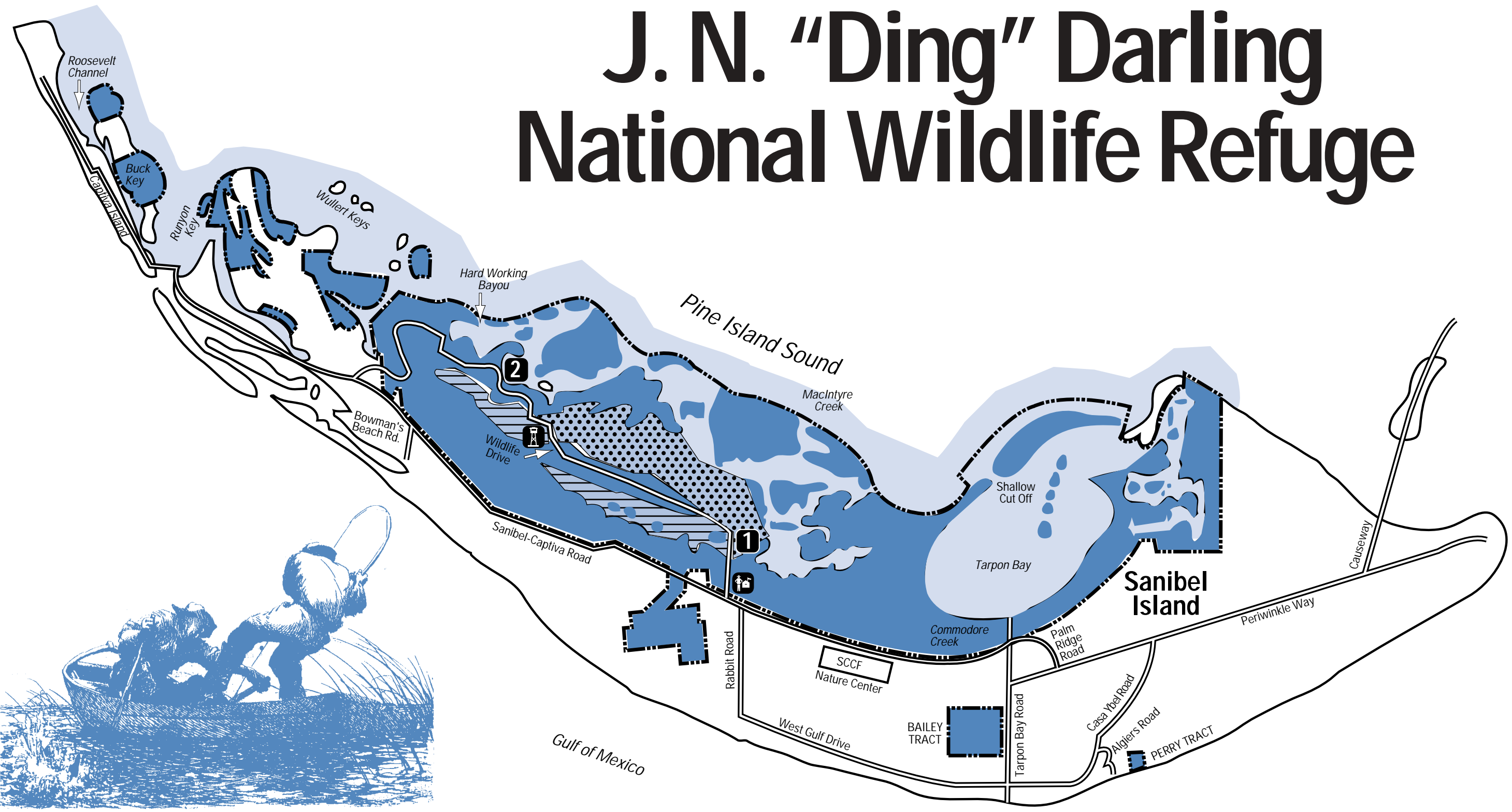
Saltwater Fishing

Freshwater Fishing

J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge

Commercial enterprises are not permitted on Wildlife Drive.

Please do not litter. Monofilament line, 6-pack rings, plastic bags and other trash can injure and kill wildlife. Cigarettes are toxic and can be fatal to fish and marine mammals.



Legend

- Slow Speed/minimum wake
- Refuge lands
- Waters closed to public entry
- No motorized boating zone
- Refuge boundary
- Slow speed/minimum wake - Extends 1/4 mile beyond boundary
- No personal watercraft (jetskis, waverunners, etc.)
- Canoe/Kayak, Launch Site 1
- Canoe/Kayak, Launch Site 2
- Visitor Center
- Observation Tower

J.N. "Ding" Darling

