

**United States Department of the Interior  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Chesapeake Marshlands NWR Complex  
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge Initiates Waterfowl Hunt**

The Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) that was completed in 2006 identified two new hunting opportunities for the refuge. These include a waterfowl hunt and a spring turkey hunt. These two hunts have completed the required planning process and were approved through the Federal Register in late August.

Full implementation of the waterfowl hunt will be difficult for the 2008-2009 hunting season due to the timing of the approval process. Refuge Manager Baird is working closely with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Waterfowler's Association to provide some opportunity for waterfowl hunting this year. Information regarding the Spring Turkey Hunt will be released at a later date.

For the first year of the refuge waterfowl hunt program, hunting will be limited to sites on Barren Island, Spring Island, and the Bishopshead Division. A Refuge Waterfowl Hunt Permit will be required by all hunters. Hunting will be by boat access only and on a first come, first serve basis. Each island/division will have 2 sites. A party of up to four individuals will be allowed at each site. Hunters must remain within 50 yards of the GPS coordinate of the site. They can hunt from a temporary blind or from a boat directly adjacent to shore.

This year it will only be a half season, non-transferable pass for \$15 per person. Beginning December 1, 2008, permits can be purchased at the refuge Visitor Center on Key Wallace Drive between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on week days and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on weekends.

All hunting will follow Maryland State regulations and bag limits. In addition to a refuge waterfowl hunting permit, a hunter must be in possession of a valid Maryland State waterfowl hunting license, Federal Duck Stamp, Maryland State Duck Stamp, and photo identification. The hunt season will be Wednesdays and Saturdays during December 16, 2008 – January 24, 2009 and includes New Years Day January 1, 2009 and Martin Luther King Day, January 21, 2009. If you have any further questions, please call 410-228-5018.

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