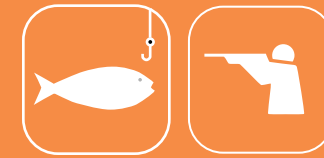


# Catahoula

## *National Wildlife Refuge Hunting and Fishing Regulations 2008-2009*



### The Refuge

Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge, located in east central Louisiana, 12 miles east of Jena, was established on October 28, 1958 and now totals 25,242 acres.

The 6,671 acre Headquarters Unit borders nine miles of the northeast shore of Catahoula Lake, a 26,000 acre natural wetland renowned for its large concentrations of migratory waterfowl. The 18,571 acre Bushley Bayou Unit, located 8 miles west of Jonesville, was established May 16, 2001. The acquisition was made possible through a partnership agreement between The Conservation Fund, American Electric Power, and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Catahoula NWR is now part of the Central Louisiana Refuges Complex administered out of the Grand Cote NWR Headquarters Office located at 401 Island Road, Marksville, LA 71351, 318/253 4238. The complex also includes Lake Ophelia NWR.

### General Regulations

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to provide recreational opportunities through the wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Hunting and sport fishing are permitted in accordance with the Federal regulations governing public use on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations.

Hunting and sport fishing will be in accordance with applicable State regulations and subject to the following conditions: The Headquarters Unit is open to public access from one hour before official sunrise until ½ hour after official sunset. The only exception is the French Fork road which is open on a 24 hour basis for access to Catahoula Lake. The Wildlife Drive entrance is controlled by an automatic gate with time posted. The Bushley Bayou Unit is open to public access two hours before official sunrise until two hours after official sunset unless otherwise specified.

### Permits

An annual Central LA NWR Special Recreational Activity Permit is 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 Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge, 12 miles east of Jena, LA on Hwy 84. Office hours are Monday through Friday 7 am to 3:30 pm, except for federal holidays when the office is closed. Permits are also available at the Grand Cote NWR Headquarters Office located at 401 Island Road, Marksville, LA 71351, 318/253 4238. Permits may be also ordered by mail at Refuge address shown on the front of this brochure. Request for permits must include name, address, phone number, and \$15.00 (money order or cashier's check:

personal checks not accepted). Refuge permits authorize participation in all refuge hunting and fishing. The permit must be signed and in your possession whenever hunting, fishing, or using an ATV on the refuge, and acknowledges your understanding of regulations. The Central LA NWR Special Recreational Activity Permit applies to all refuges within the complex (Lake Ophelia, Grand Cote, and Catahoula). Individuals utilizing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, license, hunting equipment, bag limits, boats, vehicles, and their contents by refuge officers.

Youth under 16 years of age must possess a Hunter Safety Certification Card or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety course and be accompanied in sight and in normal voice contact by an adult 21 years of age 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.

Prior to entering and leaving the hunt area, we require hunters to sign in and sign out and to report hours hunted and game taken for each visit, at a refuge check box. All hunters and anglers must enter and exit the refuge at designated parking lots only, except by boat.

### Disabled

Medically certified, disabled sportsman that need assistance should contact the Refuge Manager. The fishing pier located on Cowpen Bayou is wheelchair accessible.

### Commercial Activities

Commercial hunting, fishing and crawfishing activities are prohibited. Specifically, we prohibit any person or group acting as a hunting guide, outfitter, or in any other capacity that any other individual pays or promises to pay directly or indirectly for services rendered to any other person(s) hunting on the refuge, regardless of whether such payment is for guiding, outfitting, lodging or club membership.

### Firearms/Bows

Firearms are permitted only during refuge gun hunting seasons. Firearms carried in any vehicle, ATV, or boat must be unloaded and encased or dismantled. Loaded is defined as shells in gun or caps on muzzleloader. Only legal muzzleload weapons that are loaded from the muzzle end of the barrel and that uses black powder or a black powder substitute are permitted. Bows are permitted only during the refuge archery hunting season. The use or possession of any drug on an arrow is prohibited. Handguns are not permitted during archery only season. The use of crossbows is limited to individuals who have a Louisiana State issued Crossbow Permit or who are over the age of 60.

### Ammunition

Only shotgun shells with approved non-toxic shot, .177 and .22 caliber rimfire may be used and possessed on the refuge



Catahoula  
National Wildlife Refuge  
P.O. Box 120  
Rhinehart, Louisiana 71363  
318/992 5261  
<http://catahoula.fws.gov>

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

July 2008



while hunting small game. The possession of slugs or rifle and pistol ammunition larger than .22 caliber rimfire is permitted only during refuge deer-gun hunts. Possession of buckshot is prohibited.

### Method of taking game

The use of climbing spikes; attaching stands to trees with nails, screws, or bolts; or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven is prohibited. Construction of and/or hunting from a permanent blind is prohibited. Hunting from climbing stands attached to power poles in right of ways on refuge is prohibited. No hunting within 150 feet of any designated road or ATV trail. All stands, blinds, decoys, boats, etc. must be removed from the refuge daily.

Hunter Orange is required during the refuge muzzleloader hunts and deer-gun hunts. Four hundred (400) inches of Hunter Orange on the outermost layer of clothing on chest and back and a cap of unbroken Hunter Orange must be displayed during these hunts, at all times whether on the ground, towers, or tree stands. Hunters participating in special dog season for rabbit and squirrel are required to wear a minimum of a “Hunter Orange” cap. All other hunters and archers (while on the ground) except waterfowl hunters also must wear a minimum of a “Hunter Orange” cap during the special dog seasons for rabbit and squirrel. All persons afield during hunting seasons are encouraged to display “Hunter Orange.” Deer hunters hunting from concealed ground blinds must display a minimum of 400 square inches of “Hunter Orange” above or around their blinds which is visible from 360° and must be on blind at all times.

Refuge hunting seasons apply to all navigable waterways that are wholly within the refuge boundaries.

### Restricted Area

Hunting is restricted in certain areas as shown on the hunting maps. No hunting is allowed within the maintained rights-of-way of the roads and ATV trails shown on maps.

### Vehicles

Motor vehicles are restricted to graveled roads as indicated on the refuge map. An All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) is defined as an off-road vehicle (not legal for highway use) with factory specifications not to exceed the following: weight – 750 lbs., length – 85”, and width – 48”. ATV tires are restricted to those no larger than 25x12 with a maximum lug height of 1 inch and with a maximum allowable tire pressure of 7 psi. as indicated on the tire by the manufacturer. ATV trails are open from September 1 through the last day of rabbit season. Some ATV trails are open year round for fishing access and are indicated on the map.

### Tire restriction

Vehicles having wheels with a wheel-tire combination having a radius of 17 inches or more from the center of the hub (measured horizontal to ground) are prohibited.

Speed limit is 25 mph on all roads. Refuge roads may be temporarily closed to vehicles due to flooding, construction, or adverse weather conditions. Driving off a designated ATV trail is prohibited. ATVs are allowed only for hunting, fishing, and scouting activities.

### Headquarters Unit Only

During the state waterfowl season hunters may transport unloaded and encased or dismantled shotguns, and legally taken game, across the refuge when traveling to and from the French Fork boat ramps during the state waterfowl season via the French Fork Road.

Archery season is closed during refuge deer gun hunt south of French Fork of Little River. Hunting is closed during the high water conditions when Catahoula Lake elevation is at 42.0 feet or above. The lake level can be monitored at the following website: <http://www.rivergages.com>– Vicksburg District of the Ouachita River Basin.

Refuge south of French Fork of Little River is open to either-sex deer-gun hunting December 13-14. All hunters must report hours hunted and deer taken for each visit, at the refuge check box, before leaving the refuge.

Feral hogs and raccoons may be taken during all hunts.

### Fishing

Only pole/line or rod/reel fishing for finfish is permitted. No snagging. Crawfishing and jug fishing on Headquarters Unit prohibited. Cowpen Bayou and the Highway 28 borrow pits are open to fishing year-round. Muddy Bayou, Duck Lake, Willow Lake, Highway 84 borrow pits, and all other refuge waters are opened to fishing from March 1 - October 31. Only non-motorized boats or boats with motors of 10 horsepower or less are permitted on the Headquarters Unit waters. Boats with motors over 10 horsepower are prohibited, whether or not the motors are used for power. Launching of boats with trailers is permitted only at designated boat ramps. All boat trailers must be properly licensed. Small boats that are hand carried to the water may be launched at non-boat ramp sites. Boats may not be left on the refuge overnight.

### Bushley Bayou Unit Only

All motorized vehicles are restricted to designated refuge roads only. See Bushley Bayou Unit map. Driving off any designated ATV trail or road is prohibited.

Hunting is closed during high water condition when when Catahoula Lake elevation is at 44.0 feet or above, except waterfowl. The lake level can be monitored at the following

website: <http://www.rivergages.com>– Vicksburg District of the Ouachita River Basin.

Hunting is permissible with pointer/retriever dogs during migratory bird seasons and with recognized rabbit and squirrel dogs during the rabbit and squirrel season following the last muzzleloader deer hunt until the end of the State rabbit season. No more than two dogs per hunting party for squirrel hunting. Only beagles that do not exceed 15 inches at front shoulder may be used for rabbit hunting. All dogs must be collared with owner’s name and phone number. Use of dogs to trail wounded deer or hogs is prohibited.

### Fishing

Recreational fishing and crawfishing is allowed year round. For crawfishing, only pyramid nets made with cotton or nylon webbing will be permitted. The harvest limit is 100 pounds per permit per day. All nets must be attended at all times and may not be left on the refuge overnight. No commercial crawfishing is permitted on the refuge. Artificial crawfish bait, melt, and fish may be used, with the exception of catfish heads. All used and un-used crawfish bait must be retained. All bait discarded on refuge property will be considered littering. Permittee’s may not give or sell fish to: commercial fishermen or persons who sell fish or employees or family members of commercial fishermen. Only 10 horsepower motors or less are allowed on interior lakes within the Bushley Bayou Unit. There is no horsepower limit on motors used on Bushley Creek, Big Bushley Creek, and Little Bushley Creek.

Trotline must be tended at least once every 24 hours and reset when exposed by receding water levels and must be attached with a length of cotton line that extends into the water. A maximum limit of 100 hooks per trotline and no more than 4 trotlines per boat is allowed. Both ends of the trotline must be label with name, address and phone number. Trotlines must be removed when not in use. Yo-yo’s and jugs must be attended (within sight) and used only during daylight hours. A maximum limit of 25 jugs and 25 yo-yo’s per boat is allowed. Jugs and yo-yo’s must be attached with cotton line. Nylon line prohibited.

We prohibit bank fishing on Bushley creek and all fishing in Black Lake, Dempsey Lake, Long Lake, Rhinehart Lake, and Round Lake, during the deer-gun and deer-muzzleloader hunts. We prohibit fishing in Black Lake, Dempsey Lake, Long Lake, Rhinehart Lake, and Round Lake, during waterfowl hunts.

### Prohibited Activities

- Open alcoholic containers in vehicles.
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting or operating an ATV or boat.

- Use or possession of bait or hunting over bait, or any attractant
- Taking of wildlife, or parts of, or plants (including cutting trees or brush) other than specified in the brochure.
- Taking of shells, mollusks, frogs, snakes, or turtles.
- Use of gear or equipment other than hook and line to catch fish or bait fish.
- Possession of cleaned or processed fish on the refuge.
- Collection and removal of antlers.
- Target shooting or plinking.
- Hand guns, pellet guns and bb guns.
- Hunting within 150 feet of any refuge gravel road or ATV Trail.
- Parking or hunting within 150 feet of any oil well site, production facility, or equipment.
- Hunting/Retrieval in “No Hunting Zones.”
- Casting a light to locate wildlife.
- Marking areas or trails with tape, paint, paper, etc.
- Trapping.
- Man-drives for deer or feral hogs.
- Use of horses or mules.
- Use of remote cameras.
- Camping/overnight parking.
- Fires.
- Cutting firewood or trimming vegetation.
- Possession of saws, saw blades, or machetes.
- Searching for or removing any object of antiquity including arrowheads and all pottery shards.
- Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles or ATV.
- Littering.
- Unleashed pets.
- Accessing adjoining non-refuge property from any part of the refuge or from refuge parking areas.
- Geocaching.
- Use of deer and turkey decoys.
- The use of an ATV on graveled roads designated for motor vehicles is prohibited unless otherwise posted.