

Blackbeard Island

National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting and Fishing

Regulations 2004-2005

Blackbeard Island NWR McIntosh County, Georgia

Blackbeard Island National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 500 national wildlife refuges. The primary objective of a national wildlife refuge is to provide habitat for the conservation and protection of all species of wildlife. The harvest of surplus animals is one tool used to manage wildlife populations. Carefully managed hunts maintain wildlife populations at a level compatible with the environment, provide recreational opportunities, and permit the use of a valuable renewable resource.

Public hunting on Blackbeard Island NWR is permitted on approximately 4,500 acres. Certain areas (marked on the map printed on the reverse side) are closed to hunting.

The regulations listed below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on wildlife refuge areas as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State (Georgia) regulations. **All Coast Guard and State boating regulations will be enforced.**

General Hunting Regulations

Federal permits are required for all hunts and must be carried on the person while hunting. All hunters must obtain a permit regardless of age. Permits are non-transferable. Only hunt participants with proper licenses will be allowed on the refuge during hunts.

No one under age 16 may hunt unless under direct supervision (within sight and hearing of a person 18 years of age or older).

Each hunter may place one stand on the refuge no earlier than one month prior to the opening day of each hunt. However, hunters assume all responsibility for the loss or damage of personal property left on the refuge. **Stands must be removed by the end of each hunt.**

Hunters must check in at the refuge dock prior to setting up camp. Personal identification (driver's license, or official state identification card) will be required at check in.

Hunters may check in no more than one day in advance of the opening date of each hunt period. Check in will not be permitted after sunset of the second hunt day.

Hunters will be confined to the camping area until noon on the first day of check-in; from noon until 5:00 pm scouting will be permitted. Weapons may not be taken from the campground during this authorized scouting periods.

Hunters must be off the island by noon on the Sunday after each hunt period.

Transportation is not provided to, from, or on the refuge. Any movement within the refuge must be by foot or bicycle (by foot only within the National Wilderness Area). Entry and exit points are limited to designated check stations or other specified areas. Hunters are not allowed to leave by boat to reach other parts of the island.

Firearms are not allowed on the island. Archery target practice will be permitted in designated areas only.

The possession or use of poison, or poison pods, is illegal.

The distribution of bait, and hunting over bait, is prohibited.

All camping will be at designated camping areas only. Fires must be confined to the camping area.

The possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

Hunters must be on their stands from one-half hour before legal sunrise until 9:00 am and from two hours before sunset until legal sunset.

Deer harvested during scheduled hunts must be checked by refuge personnel before leaving the refuge.

Archery hunters are encouraged to wear a fluorescent orange outer garment while hunting on the ground or walking to and from stands.

2004 Blackbeard Island NWR Bow Hunt Permit

When signed and in your possession, this brochure serves as your Blackbeard bow hunt permit, and acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein.

Check-in is required upon arrival at the refuge dock.

Signature

Hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been driven or screwed is prohibited.

No flagging, blazing, painting, or trail marking devices may be used to locate stands, or for any other purpose.

Only designated game species may be taken and other wildlife may not be molested in any manner.

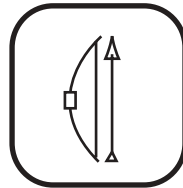
All forms of litter should be placed in trash receptacles for proper disposal.

Participating in "man-drives" for deer is prohibited.

Pruning/limbing of live trees is prohibited.

Archery Deer Hunts

Archery hunting for deer on Blackbeard Island NWR will be permitted only on October 21-23, 2004 and December 2-4, 2004.



Five deer, either sex, may be taken (state bonus tags will be issued for two of these). Feral hogs (no bag limit) may also be taken.

Only bows, in accordance with state regulations, will be authorized. **No crossbows will be allowed.**

Blackbeard Island NWR will be closed to the general public one day prior to, and one day after, the hunt period as well as on hunt days.

How to Obtain Refuge Permits

The attached permit (on the first page) to participate in the bow hunt will be validated during check-in at the refuge dock. An unlimited number of permits will be available for both archery hunts.

Camping Facilities

All campsites are primitive. Potable water, flush toilets, and showers are available at the campground. A cooler unit is operated to store harvested deer.



Boater Caution

Coastal waters are subject to extreme tidal fluctuations of six to ten feet.



Hunters should be familiar with tide tables, and monitor coastal weather conditions before navigating to the barrier island refuge.

Notice for boaters launching from Harris Neck NWR Barbour River Landing at Harris Neck NWR is open daily 4:00 am-midnight only. Parking permits will be issued to Blackbeard hunters who require 24-hour use of the landing. Vehicles, other than those bearing permits, are unauthorized at the landing from midnight to 4:00 am. Permits (valid one day prior to, during, and one day after hunt periods) can be obtained at the Savannah Coastal Refuges' office 912/652 4415 after October 1.

Take pride in your refuge. Report violations. Pick up litter.

Signs Protect Visitors and Resources

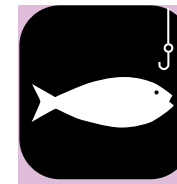
Millions of people visit national wildlife refuges each year. The impact of human activity, if not regulated, can degrade these wildlands. Signs control recreational activities while protecting natural resources on the refuge. Please respect the following signs:



This sign delineates the refuge boundary. You may enter only on designated access routes. Consult manager for restrictions.



This area is closed to all entry. No hunting or sight-seeing is permitted. Roads and trails within this area are closed to the public.



Fishing Regulations

Sport fishing on Blackbeard Island NWR is permitted from the beach, in tidal creeks, and on ponds (impounded waters) within the refuge boundaries. Sport fishing shall be in accordance with all applicable State regulations* and subject to the following special conditions:

Freshwater fishing is permitted year-round from sunrise to sunset, except during managed hunts.

Some portions of the freshwater ponds may be closed seasonally to protect wildlife from human disturbance.

Only non-motorized boats or boats with electric motors are permitted on the freshwater ponds.

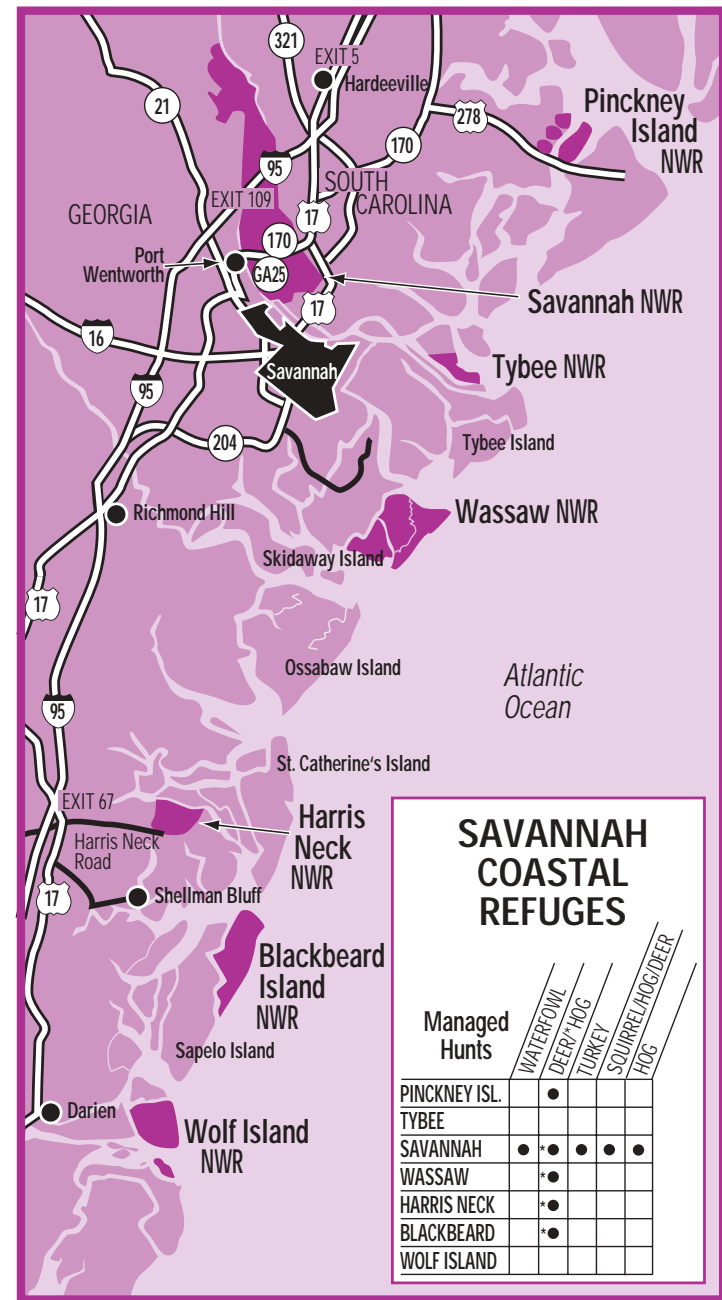
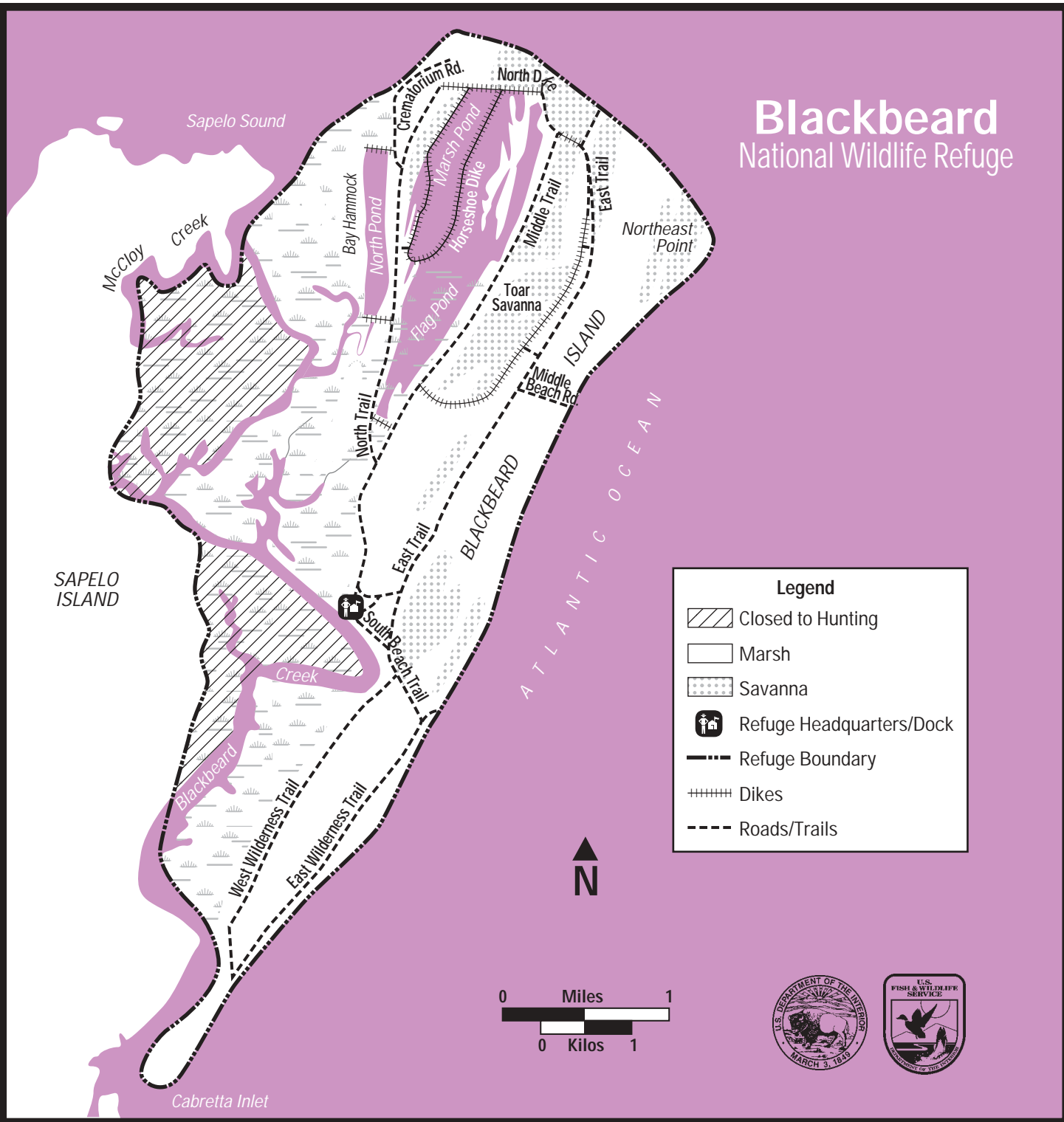
The use of live minnows as bait is not permitted.

Bank fishing into estuarine waters is permitted only from sunrise to sunset.

Boats may not be left on the refuge overnight.

*A Georgia fishing license is required.

Blackbeard National Wildlife Refuge



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 912/652 4415
<http://blackbeardisland.fws.gov>
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