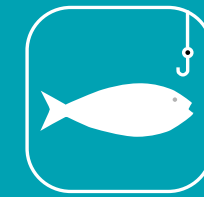


Cameron Prairie

National Wildlife Refuge Fishing Regulations

East Cove Unit and Gibbstown Unit



General Provisions

Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 500 national wildlife refuges covering more than 93 million acres that are specifically managed for fish, wildlife and their habitats. Fishing is one of the Service's priority public uses when it is compatible with Service and refuge objectives.

Cameron Prairie NWR consists of two separate and distinct units, East Cove Unit and Gibbstown Unit. The East Cove Unit is located in the extreme southwest corner of Louisiana in Cameron Parish. Refuge habitat consists of 14,927 acres of intermediate and brackish marshes. Calcasieu Lake borders the refuge on the west side and privately owned marshes border the refuge to the north, east and south. Fish include gar, catfish, flounder and redfish. The refuge also serves as an important nursery area for both shrimp and crabs.

The East Cove Unit is part of a 64,000 acre marsh restoration program called Cameron Creole Watershed Project. Five water control structures and a protection levee improve marsh conditions and stop marsh erosion by controlling saltwater intrusion.

The Gibbstown Unit contains 9,621 acres of fresh marsh, coastal prairie, and old rice fields. It is managed to provide natural foods for wintering waterfowl and other waterbirds.

The regulations listed below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting and fishing on wildlife refuge areas as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Fishing will be in accordance with applicable state regulations subject to the following special conditions.

License and Permits - All applicable Louisiana fishing licenses are required to fish and cast net on the refuge.

Public Access - Admittance onto the refuge is open from official sunrise to official sunset. Occupying or using the refuge outside of these hours is strictly prohibited.

Gibbstown Unit

Sport fishing is open in two areas of the Gibbstown Unit from March 15th through October 15th. The canal and borrow pits adjacent to Bank Fishing Road, located opposite the Pintail Wildlife Drive on the west side of Highway 27 and a 2-mile section of Outfall Canal. Outfall Canal runs east-west and is located 1.5 miles north of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) off of North Canal,

which runs north-south. Outfall Canal can only be accessed by boat. To access the canal, boats can be launched at the public launch under the Gibbstown Bridge on Highway 27. Proceed east in the GIWW for about 2 miles and take the first left (north) into North canal. Travel approximately 1.5 miles and Outfall Canal will be on the left.

East Cove Unit

Public access into the East Cove Unit is open year round during daylight hours, except during the Louisiana Waterfowl Hunting season and when the Grand Bayou Boat Bay is closed. When the Grand Bayou Boat Bay is closed, the East Cove Unit is closed to ALL public use. Public use is restricted to boats only. This means you cannot walk, wade, or climb in or on the marsh, levees or structures to fish, cast net, crab or pursue any other activity. Airboats and all terrain vehicles are not allowed. Boat passage through the Grand Bayou Water Control Structure is permitted only when the boat bay is completely open. All other public use activities are prohibited in the posted and signed closed areas at Grand Bayou and Lambert Bayou Water Control Structures. Canal and bayou banks as well as control structures are off limits to all public activities in the refuge. For updates on boat bay openings, call 337/598 4235.

Fishing - Fishing with rod and reel or pole and line is permitted. The use or possession of any other type of fishing gear including limb lines, gill nets, jug lines or trotlines is prohibited on the refuge.

Crabbing - Crabs may be taken with hand lines or drop nets. Drop nets up to 24" outside diameter may be used. All hand lines, dropnets and bait must be removed from the refuge upon leaving.

Cast Netting - Cast netting is permitted from sunrise to sunset in accordance with state and refuge regulations. Cast nets may not exceed a five foot (5 ft.) hanging radius. Cast netting for bait is allowed for personal use only.

Possession Limits - The daily fish limits are the same as Louisiana's Sport Fishing Limits. The daily crab limit is 5 dozen (60) per day, per vehicle or boat. The daily shrimp limit is 5 gallons of heads-on shrimp per day, per vehicle or boat. No alligators, turtles, frogs, snakes or crawfish may be taken or possessed within the refuge.

Boat, Motor and Operation Limits - East Cove Unit

All State Boating Regulations must be followed. Outboard motors may be operated in refuge canals, bayous and lakes. Boat motor horsepower is not restricted. However, the Grand Bayou boat bay passage is only 10 feet wide. The use of air thrust boats, Jet Skis and Go-Devils is prohibited.

Gibbstown Unit

Motorized boats are permitted in the Outfall canal from March 15 through October 15. Only non-motorized boats are permitted in the Bank Fishing Road waterways.

The following activities are prohibited on Cameron Prairie NWR

Feeding or approaching alligators

Littering

Camping/overnight parking

Taking of wildlife or plants other than specified in refuge regulations

Blocking gates or roadways with vehicles

Possessing firearms and other type weapons

The sale, or offer for sale, of any fish, crab, or shrimp taken from the refuge

Campfires, cooking fires and portable grills

WARNING:

Use extreme caution when entering or exiting the Grand Bayou Boat Bay. If two boats are motoring to enter the boat bay the boat traveling with the current has right-of-way and the boat traveling against the current must give way to the oncoming boat. Boaters are urged to wear their life jackets whenever under power.

For additional information contact:

Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge
1428 Hwy 27
Bell City, Louisiana 70630
337/598 2216



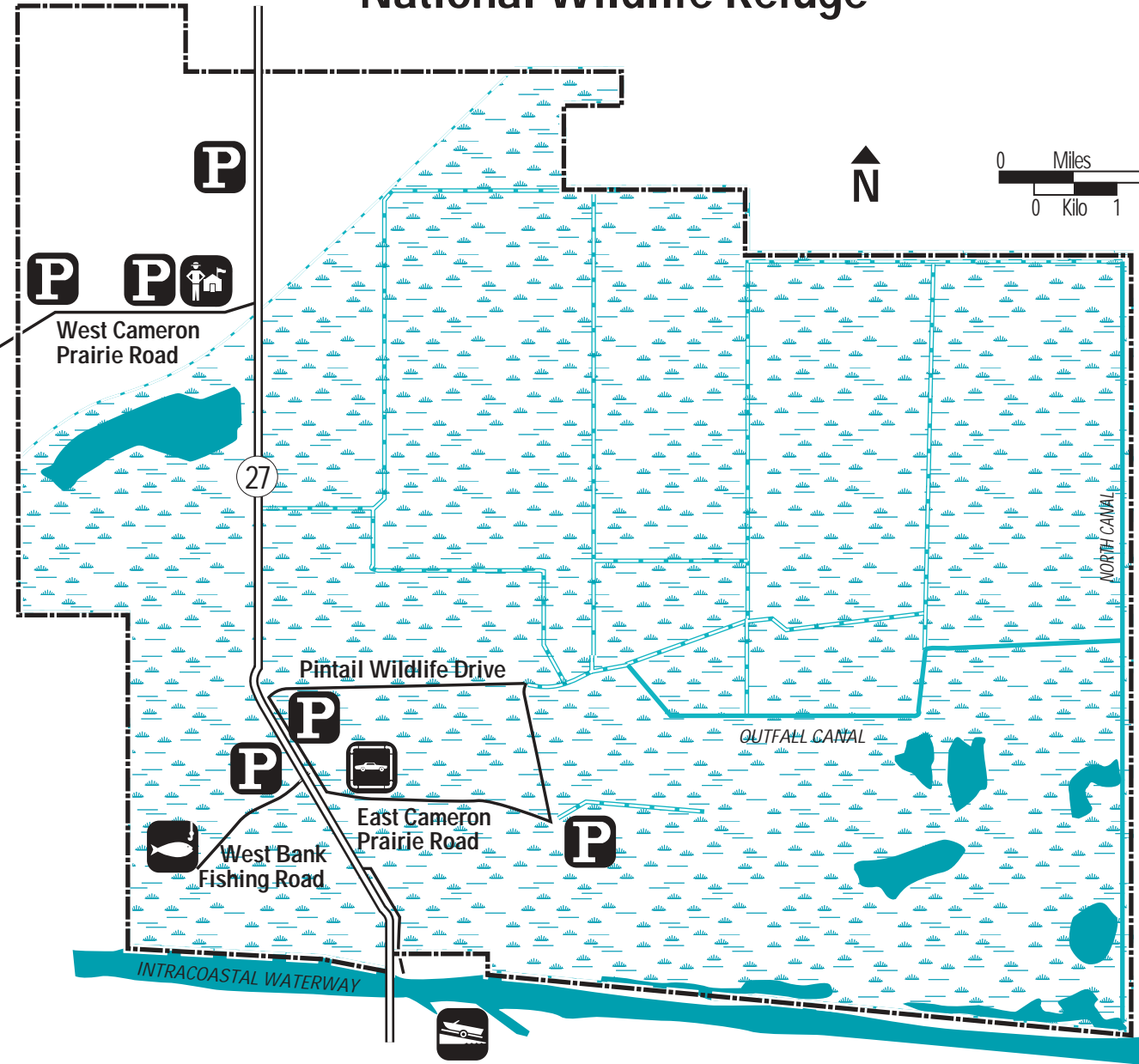
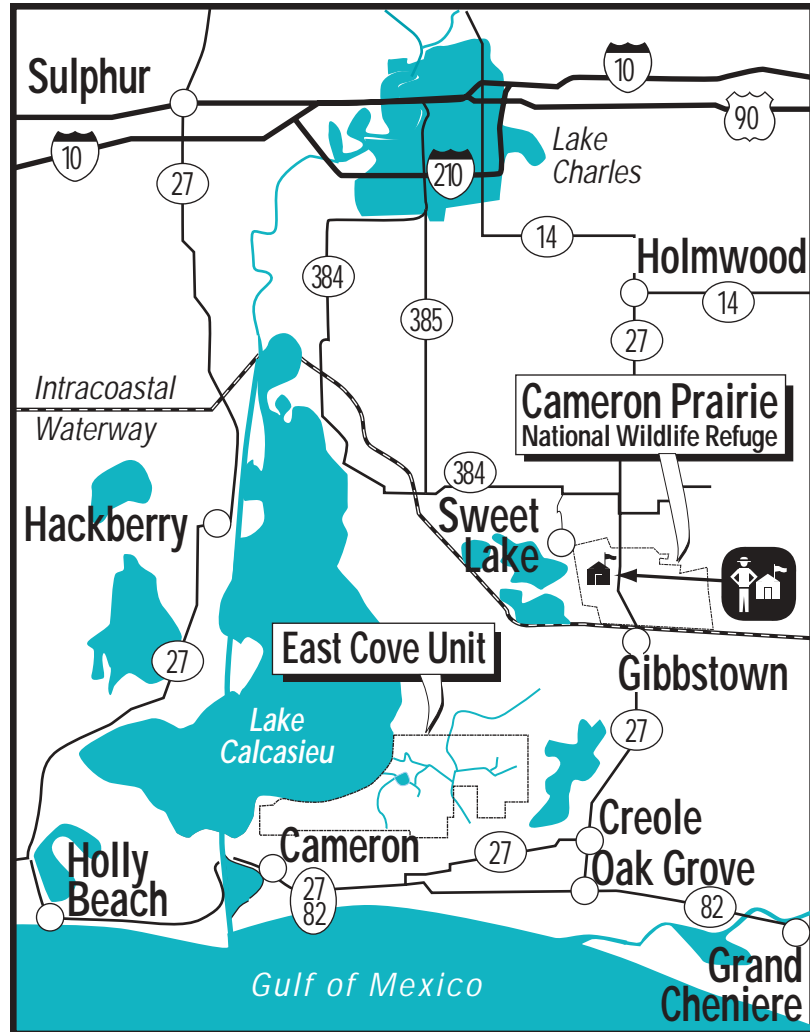
Cameron Prairie National Wildlife
Refuge
1428 Highway 27
Bell City, Louisiana 70630
337/598 2216

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
cameronprairie.fws.gov

February 2004



Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge



- Refuge Office and Visitor Center
- Parking
- Refuge Boundary
- Paved Road
- Unpaved Road
- Canals
- Levees
- Boat Launching
- Fishing
- Pintail Wildlife Drive
- Water Control Structure
- Boat Access—Grand Bayou Control Structure
- Marsh
- Water

