

Lacassine 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 fish and wildlife. Sport fishing is permitted at a level compatible with the environment, provides wholesome recreational opportunities and permits the use of a renewable natural resource.

Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1937 to preserve wintering habitat for waterfowl in the coastal prairie of southwestern Louisiana. Refuge habitat consists of approximately 35,000 acres of freshwater marshes and scattered uplands.

The dominant feature of the refuge is Lacassine Pool which was created by enclosing a 16,000-acre marsh with a low levee. The refuge is noted for its large concentrations of waterfowl and other species of fish and wildlife, including several game species. Fishes present include largemouth bass, crappie, sunfish, and catfish.

Visitors are cautioned that motorboat travel on the refuge may be hazardous due to narrow boat runs, rough water, fog, vegetation, and swells from towboats, barges and crew boats. Visitors also need to be aware of areas designated as No Wake Zones.

Certain State waterways that flow through the refuge are not subject to special refuge fishing regulations. These waterways are Lacassine Bayou, Streeter's Canal between the Mermentau River and Lacassine Bayou, and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (see map on reverse). Anglers should consult the State regulations for special restrictions in these waterways. **All side canals, coves, bays, marshes and ponds off these waterways are subject to refuge fishing regulations.**

Fishing regulations are designed to protect anglers, and manage fish and wildlife populations. The regulations below supplement the general regulations which govern fishing on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Fishing and boating is in accordance with applicable State regulations and licensing. Fishing is permitted on the refuge subject to the following conditions:

Season: Boat and bank fishing outside Lacassine Pool is permitted March 15 through October 15. Fishing inside Lacassine Pool is permitted April 26 through October 15.

Hours: Admittance onto the refuge is permitted from one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset.

Creel Limits: Largemouth bass are protected in Lacassine Pool subject to the following provisions: 1) Only bass **14 inches** or longer may be kept, and all bass smaller than 14 inches must be immediately released; 2) Only **5 bass** per angler per day is allowed. Bass outside Lacassine Pool and all other fish species on the refuge may be harvested according to applicable State regulations.

Closed Areas: Fishing is prohibited in the headquarters display pond and bank fishing is prohibited on the Lacassine Pool Wildlife Drive. Other areas may be closed to fishing for management purposes as designated by no fishing or Area Closed Signs.

Access: Airboats, ATV's and jet skis may not be used on the refuge. Boats may not be left inside the refuge overnight. Boats may not be dragged, jumped, or rolled over levees. Visitors are to obey speed

limits on refuge roads to reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality.

Lacassine Pool: Only boats with motors of 25 horsepower or less may be used in Lacassine Pool. Boaters are encouraged to reduce travel speeds at boat run intersections. Trailered boats may be launched into Lacassine Pool only at the cement ramps at the public boat launches. Boats are prohibited October 16 through April 25.

Unit A & C: Boats are prohibited in Units A and C.

Unit D: The Unit D impoundment within Lacassine Pool is restricted to boats without motors except electric trolling motors are permitted. Boats may not be dragged, jumped, or rolled over levees to enter Unit D. Boats are prohibited October 16 through April 25.

Canals and Bayous outside Lacassine Pool: Motorized boats may be used in canals and bayous outside Lacassine Pool unless posted by Area Closed signs. Horsepower is not restricted for motors used in these canals and bayous.

Marshes: Access into refuge marshes and ponds outside Lacassine Pool is restricted to walking, poling, paddling or rowing. Motors may not be used in refuge marshes.

Gear: Only fishing with rod and reel or pole and line is permitted in refuge waters. The use or possession of any other type of fishing gear including trotlines and juglines is prohibited in all waters except Lacassine Bayou, Streeter's Canal and the Gulf Intracoastal

Waterway. Trammel nets, gill nets and hoop nets may be used December 1 through April 30 only in Lacassine Bayou north of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway in accordance with State regulations.

Tournaments: Individuals or representatives of organizations seeking to sponsor or participate in fishing tournaments on the refuge should contact the refuge manager for special restrictions.

Prohibited Activities: The following activities are restricted or prohibited on Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge:

■ **The sale or offer for sale** of any fish taken from the refuge is prohibited. The taking of frogs and turtles is prohibited on the refuge.

■ **Littering** - Littering (i.e., worm containers, discarded fishing line, cigarette butts, beverage cans and bottles, etc.) is prohibited due to hazards they pose to fish and wildlife. Please pack out all trash, secure it, and leave a clean marsh. Litter blown from boats or pickup beds constitutes littering.

■ **Camping and overnight parking** - No camping is permitted on the refuge. Boats and vehicles must be removed from the refuge at night.

■ **Fires** - Do not light fires.

■ **Collecting** - Do not gather, collect, cut, or carry away any wildlife, plants, flowers, firewood, artifacts, soil etc. Special Use Permits regulate these activities.

■ **Harassing wildlife** - All wildlife is protected on the refuge. Only hunting and fishing activities which are authorized by refuge regulations are permitted.

■ **Weapon possession** - The only weapons and ammunition which may be possessed while in the field and in refuge waterways are archery equipment during the refuge archery deer season, and shotguns and non-toxic shot in the waterfowl hunting area during the refuge waterfowl hunting seasons. Archery equipment and firearms in vehicles on refuge roads or in boats on refuge waterways must be unloaded and either encased or dismantled. Possession of any weapon or ammunition on the refuge in any other situation not listed above is prohibited.

■ **Vehicles** - All motor vehicles are restricted to designated roads and parking areas. Roads and trails may be closed at any time due to adverse weather conditions. **All-terrain vehicles (ATV's) are strictly prohibited on the refuge.**

■ **Swimming** - Swimming is prohibited on the refuge.

■ **Pets** - All pets must be kept on leashes. No horses are allowed on refuge property. Do not release unwanted or rehabilitated animals on the refuge.

Disabled Access
Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to contact the refuge manager for information on special accommodations which are available. Disabled access fishing pier locations are shown on the map.

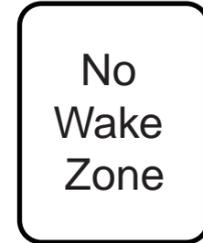
Signs Protect Visitors and Resources
Signs are used to grant or restrict certain activities to provide optimum freedom for visitors while also protecting the refuge from undue human disturbance and abuse. The wordings of the signs below apply to the areas behind the signs. Please respect all refuge signs whenever you see them as you travel around the refuge and immediately report witnessed violations to the refuge manager.

National Wildlife Refuge - This sign marks the boundary of the refuge. Consult refuge management for authorized activities.

Area Closed - Certain areas of the refuge are closed to visitors for safety and management purposes. Unauthorized entry beyond this sign is prohibited.

No Vehicles - Unauthorized motor vehicles are not allowed beyond this sign. This applies to all cars, trucks, jeeps, ATV's, and motorcycles. Walking and non-motorized bicycles are allowed. Please do not block access fronting refuge gates.

No Wake Zone

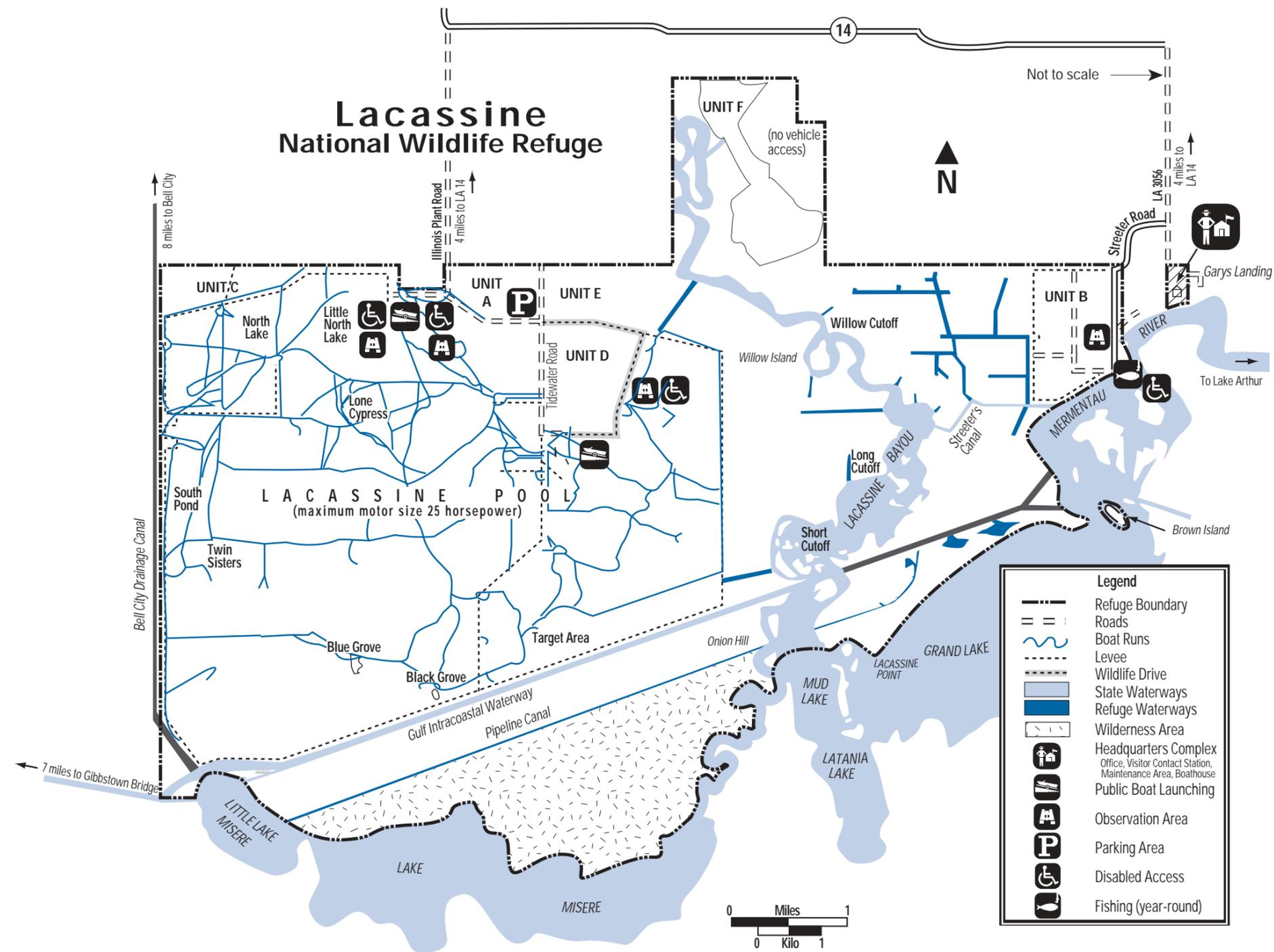
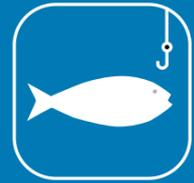


Safety Warning

Fishing Regulations

Lacassine

National Wildlife Refuge Fishing Regulations 2004



For More Information Contact:
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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