



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Mackay Island

## National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations 2024

### Welcome

Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge is located in the northeastern region of North Carolina and southeastern region of Virginia. The 8,651-acre refuge is managed by the staff of Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge office is located one mile from the VA/NC state-line off highway 615 near Knotts Island, North Carolina.

**Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge**  
P.O. Box 39  
Knotts Island, NC 27950  
252/429 3100  
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/mackay-island>

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
1 800/344 WILD  
July 2024

For more information,  
call the Refuge Manager at 252/429 3100.



This is a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.

### General Information

Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge is open to waterfowl and big game hunting by permit only.

Waterfowl hunting permits for the two authorized North Carolina blind locations are issued during a standby drawing held at 5:15 A.M. at the Knotts Island Market. Standby applications must be completed before the drawing begins.

Big Game Hunting Information can be found in this brochure or by contacting the refuge office at Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.

### General Regulations

All general refuge regulations apply, unless specifically addressed in this brochure. Restrictions and designations on the map in this brochure also apply. Public hunting is permitted in accordance with all state laws, county codes, Title 50 - Code of Federal Regulations, and the following Refuge regulations:

- Permits are required for all hunting.
- All hunters are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, bag limits, hunting equipment, boats, vehicles, and their contents during compliance checks. Violation of any Refuge regulation may result in the cancellation of your hunt permit and prosecution in Federal court.
- It is your responsibility to be familiar with all applicable Refuge, State and Federal hunting regulations before hunting on the Refuge. If you have a question concerning any Refuge regulation, please call the Refuge Office.
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.
- Taking or collecting any plant or animal (including reptiles and amphibians) is prohibited, except as specifically authorized by the Refuge Manager.
- The use of artificial lights (including car headlights) to locate, observe, or take animals is prohibited.

- The use of electronic calls to attract wildlife is prohibited.
- Baiting or feeding wildlife and hunting with the aid of bait are prohibited.
- Camping, fires, littering, and target practice are prohibited.
- Disturbing, molesting or interfering with any person engaged in the pursuit of an authorized activity on the Refuge is prohibited.

### Use of Dogs

It is prohibited to use dogs to pursue, track or retrieve deer.

### Youth

Each youth hunter, age 15 and younger, must remain within sight and normal voice contact of an adult age 21 or older. An adult may directly supervise up to two youth hunters, who must have successfully completed a State-approved hunter safety course and possess and carry proof of certification.

### Hunters with Disabilities

Hunting opportunities are available for disabled hunters. Please call the Refuge Office for information and to make advanced arrangements.

### Waterfowl Hunting Regulations

#### Access

Access is by boat only. A shallow draft boat is highly recommended. Water depths change with the wind tides. Some areas may be only inches deep at low wind tide. Be prepared to pole into some areas. Some blinds may be inaccessible due to low water. Accessing the blind locations require traversing large open water areas. The nearest boat launch is Back Bay Landing, Virginia Beach, VA.

Waterfowl hunters must be off the Refuge by 5:20 P.M.

### Hunting Dates

November - January: state waterfowl season. Hunting will be allowed on Fridays and Saturdays only.

### Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge Deer Hunting Permit 2024

I certify that I have read and understand the refuge hunting regulations in this permit.

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(Cut out and carry with license)



# U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## Waterfowl Permit Application and Draw

A standby drawing will be held at 5:15 A.M. at the Knotts Island Market. Standby applications must be completed before the drawing begins.

## Waterfowl Regulations and Enforcement

No more than three hunters per blind.

Possession of a valid hunt permit issued following successful standby drawing is required.

Hunt from assigned blind locations only. Handicapped hunters may hunt from their boat at the blind site.

Hunting will be allowed on Fridays and Saturdays only during the North Carolina Waterfowl Season.

Hunting is permitted from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 4:20 pm.

Use of guides is allowed on the Refuge. Guides must have a Special Use Permit issued by Mackay Island NWR. Guides are only allowed to hunt or carry a gun if they are one of the three permitted hunters. Contact the refuge office for more information.

## Big Game Hunting Regulations

Public deer hunting by shotgun, muzzleloading rifle/shotgun, pistol, crossbow, and archery is permitted on the Refuge on hunting dates listed below and on hunting areas shown on the map. A signed Refuge hunt permit and a valid State hunting license shall be carried when hunting deer on the Refuge. No reservations are required and hunters may select sites and hunt anywhere within the designated hunting areas.

## Coyotes

Coyotes may be harvested incidental to deer hunting 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset on the hunting dates listed below.

## Permit

The cutout portion on this form, once signed, is your deer hunting permit.

### Access

Hunting areas may be accessed by foot, bicycle, boat, and vehicle only from 5:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. No access to hunting areas is permitted before 5:00 A.M. Vehicles are restricted to gravel roads. Parking is permitted on road shoulders. Refuge is closed to all other activities.

### Hunting Dates

October 17-19, 2024

October 31 - November 2, 2024

November 7-9, 2024

November 14-16, 2024

November 28-30, 2024

All state regulations for big game hunting, including the wearing of blaze orange, shall apply. Only portable deer stands are permitted.

All deer taken must be checked-in according to North Carolina or Virginia State Hunting Regulations depending upon which State the deer was harvested in.

## Big Game Regulations and Enforcement

The following are prohibited:

- Use of ATV's/UTVs and any other unlicensed and unregistered vehicles.
- No dumping of animal parts within 100 feet of roads, wetlands and waterways.
- Hunters are responsible for the proper disposal of all animal parts.
- Driving vehicles off of gravel roads and hunter access routes.
- Shooting from a vehicle or shooting on or across roads or roadways.
- Hunting outside of designated areas shown on the map.
- Use of nails, bolts, or screws to attach portable stands to trees. Use of nail-, bolt-, or screw-type steps.
- Marking trees or vegetation with blazes, flagging, or other marking devices.
- Leaving a portable stand overnight.
- Taking of any wildlife (other than deer) and plants.

- Littering - if you pack it in, pack it out!

Additional requirements are required when transporting Virginia harvested deer through North Carolina. See <http://www.ncwildlife.org/cwd> for more information.

## All deer and coyotes must be killed before removing them from the Refuge.

## 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. Entry is permitted only for authorized uses (hunting, fishing, sightseeing, etc.) in accordance with refuge regulations.



This area is closed to all entry. No hunting, fishing or sightseeing is permitted. No roads or trails are open to the public (see map).



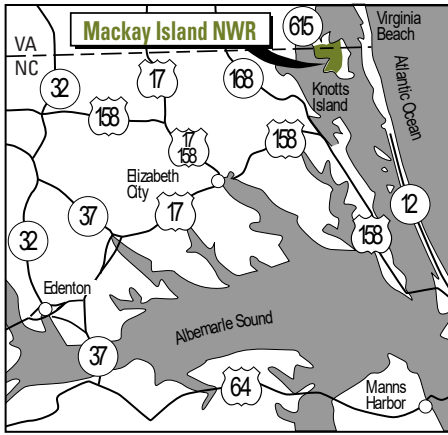
This area is closed to all hunting (see map)



This sign means that you can only hunt with bow and arrow in the marked areas.



This sign designates specific routes to get to hunter parking areas.

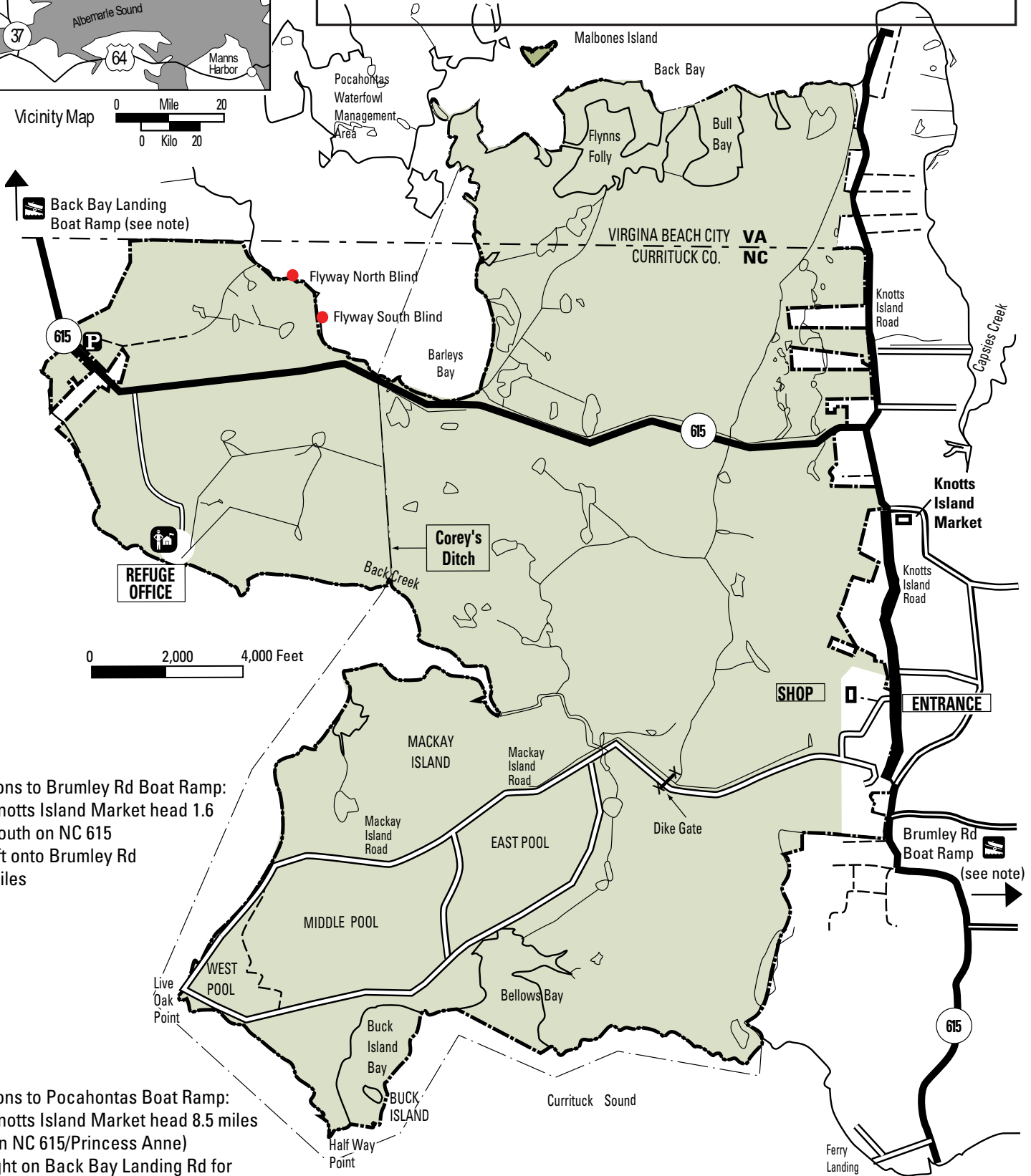


Vicinity Map  
 0 Mile 20  
 0 Kilo 20

## Mackay Island

National Wildlife Refuge 2024 Hunting Map

Refuge Boundary	Boat Ramp
Open During All Hunts	Refuge Office
Closed to Hunting	Parking
	Waterfowl Blind



**Directions to Brumley Rd Boat Ramp:**  
 From Knotts Island Market head 1.6 miles south on NC 615  
 Turn left onto Brumley Rd for .8 miles

**Directions to Pocahontas Boat Ramp:**  
 From Knotts Island Market head 8.5 miles north on NC 615/Princess Anne  
 Turn right on Back Bay Landing Rd for 1.7 miles