

# Ottawa

## National Wildlife Refuge Fishing Regulations 2022–2023



### Welcome

The refuge was established in 1961 under the authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act “for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds” (16 U.S.C. 715d). Much of the refuge was purchased with funds authorized by the Migratory Bird Conservation Act to provide habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds, resident wildlife, and endangered and threatened species. In addition to controlled and public hunting, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge offers a place for the public to enjoy wildlife-dependent activities such as wildlife viewing and photography, environmental education and interpretation, and fishing.

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a national network of lands and waters managed for the benefit of wildlife and people.

**Accessibility Information** Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. For more information please contact the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eo/public-civil-rights>

### Safety

Weather conditions at the refuge are often affected by Lake Erie and it can be hotter, colder or windier than it is further inland. Dress in layers, bring extra clothes, sunscreen, and sturdy shoes. Insects can be a problem; wearing long sleeves and using insect repellent is advised. Be prepared with plenty of water and food.

### Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32.)

### Motorized Vehicles, Parking, Camping

Park only in designated parking areas. Camping and overnight parking are prohibited. Licensed motor vehicles are permitted only on public use roads as shown on the map. ATVs and UTVs are prohibited.

### Boats

The Refuge allows non-motorized craft in designated areas. These areas are Cedar Point Fishing Access, Middle Toussaint Unit, West Harbor Landing Unit, Nehls Memorial Preserve, Turtle Creek Island Unit, Ottawa Magee Partnership Ponds, and Little Portage Unit. Boats with motors are allowed at Metzger Marsh.

### Access

Fishing on the refuge is allowed from legal sunrise to legal sunset only.

14000 West State Route 2  
Oak Harbor, OH 43449

419-898-0014

TTY Federal Relay System: 1-800-877-8339

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

August 2022



## **Prohibited Activities**

- Trapping any animal without a permit
- By law, recreational activities on national wildlife refuges are prohibited unless expressly permitted.
- Camping and Fires
- Searching for or removal of any natural items such as plants, historic, and archaeological features, are protected by Federal law.
- Taking of any turtle, frog, leech, minnow, crayfish, and mussel species by an method.
- Cutting woody vegetation
- Marking or flagging any tree or other Refuge feature with reflectors, paint, or other substance.
- Please follow "Leave No Trace" principles and do not leave trash

Parking is allowed in designated parking areas only, as identified on the map below or by signs posted at fishing locations. Access to the Refuge from private property is prohibited.

## **General**

Individuals accessing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, hunting equipment, harvest limits, boats, vehicles and their contents by federal and state officers. Ohio state regulations and refuge specific regulations will be enforced. Refuge specific regulations supersede state regulations.

## **Fishing Regulations**

Fishing regulations are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities through wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Fishing is permitted in accordance with Federal regulations governing public use on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Fishing is allowed in designated fishing areas in accordance with State of Ohio regulations, seasons, and harvest limits, subject to the conditions stated here. The refuge prohibits the take of any turtle, frog, leech, minnow, crayfish, and mussel species by any method. Only catch and release fishing is allowed at the visitor center pond. Fishing is permitted from legal sunrise to legal sunset. Anglers must remove all boats, ice fishing structures, devices, and personal property from the refuge each day. Crane Creek and Crane Creek Estuary are closed to all boats and flotation devices from the mouth of Crane Creek at Lake Erie and throughout the entirety of the refuge. Fishing line recycling stations are provided at all fishing areas.

Brochures may be obtained by mail, at the refuge headquarters, or from the refuge website.

## **To Report Violations**

- 1-844-FWS-TIPS (397-8477)
- Turn In a Poacher (TIP) Line: 1-800-POACHER



Activity	Season Dates	Harvest	Regulation
<b>Fishing -Visitor Center Pond</b>	Ohio state seasons	Catch and Release	State regulations apply. Catch and release only
<b>Fishing - *Metzger Marsh Unit, West Harbor Landing Unit, Turtle Creek Island Unit, Ottawa Magee Partnership Ponds, Little Portage Unit, Turkey Run Unit, Nehls Memorial Preserve</b>	Ohio state seasons	State harvest limits	State regulations apply <b>*Metzger Marsh Unit</b> (Open until 10 pm and turtle, frog, leech, minnow, crayfish, and mussel species may be taken)
<b>Fishing - Radar Ditch &amp; Crane Creek Estuary</b>	Ohio state seasons	State harvest limits	State regulations apply. Fishing authorized from east side of ditch only. Fishing impounded wetlands prohibited.
<b>Fishing -Marinewood Unit</b>	Ohio state seasons	State harvest limits	State regulations apply. Fishing authorized in Portage River only. Fishing inland ponds prohibited.
<b>Fishing -Middle Toussaint Unit</b>	Ohio state seasons	State harvest limits	State regulations apply. Fishing authorized in Toussaint River only. Fishing impounded wetland prohibited.
<b>Fishing -Cedar Point NWR</b>	May, June, July, August	State harvest limits	State regulations apply. Fishing authorized in two borrow ponds only. Fishing in wetland unit prohibited
<b><i>*The refuge prohibits the take of any turtle, frog, leech, minnow, crayfish, and mussel species.</i></b> (exception *Metzger Marsh Unit)			

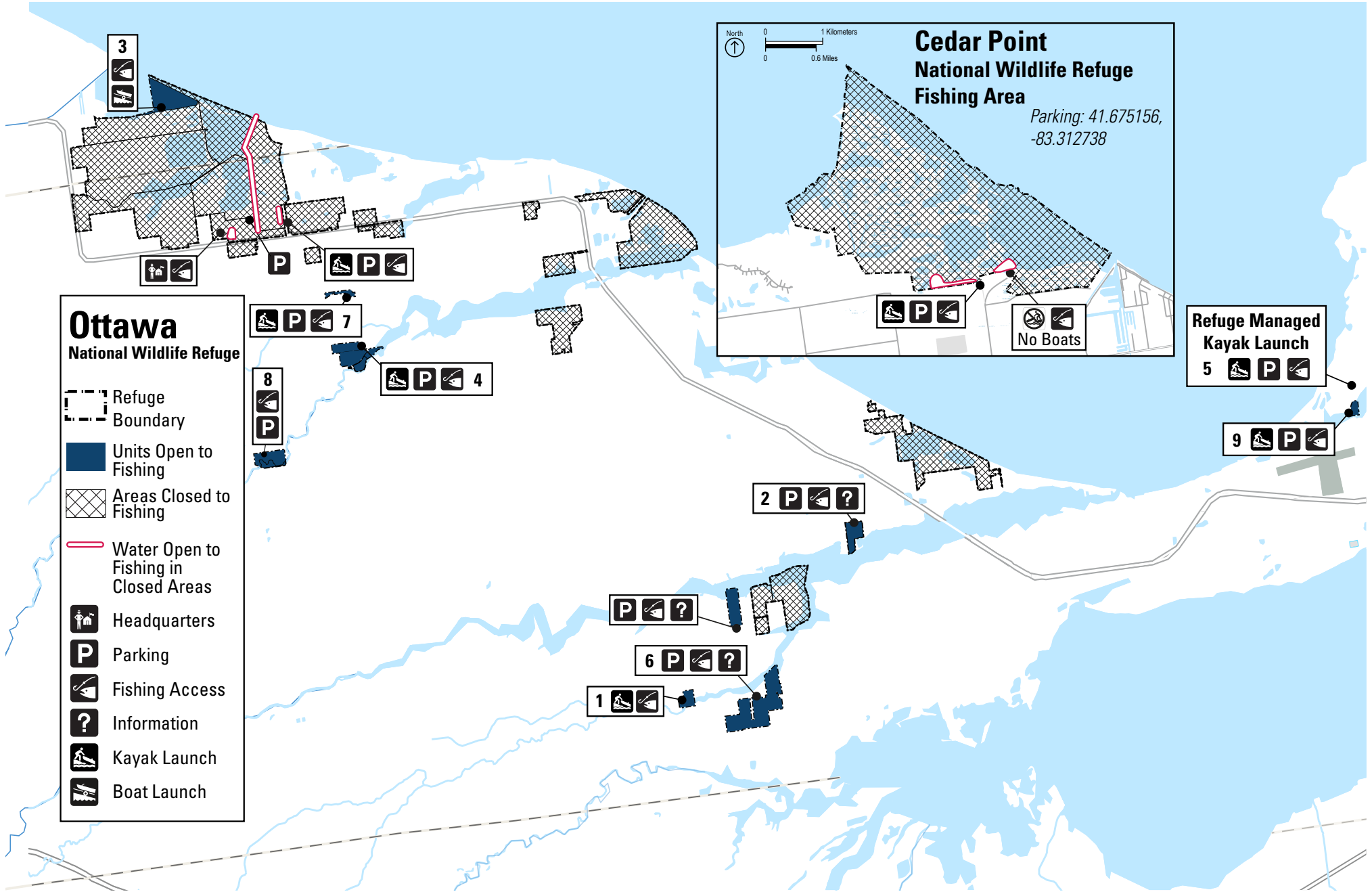
North  
0 1 Kilometers  
0 0.6 Miles

### Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge Fishing Area

Parking: 41.675156, -83.312738

### Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

- Refuge Boundary
- Units Open to Fishing
- Areas Closed to Fishing
- Water Open to Fishing in Closed Areas
- Headquarters
- Parking
- Fishing Access
- Information
- Kayak Launch
- Boat Launch



### Refuge Managed Kayak Launch

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