

Fishing Regulations

The Barataria Preserve is a wetland area with several locations for fishing. Fishing is permitted bankside (see below), by canoe or pirogue, and by motorized boat. Nine miles of waterways, closed to motorized boats, are great places to fish bankside or from canoe or pirogue; these waterways include Bayou des Familles, Bayou Coquille, Kenta Canal, and Twin Canals. All marsh areas are also closed to motorized boats. Twenty miles of waterways are open to motorized boats.

Questions or Problems? Notify a park ranger or the visitor center. The visitor center is open 9:30am-4:30pm Wednesday-Sunday; closed on all federal holidays. Trails and parking lots are open 9:00am-5:00pm every day including federal holidays; the entire preserve is closed on Mardi Gras. The visitor center's phone number is **504-689-3690 ext. 10**. You can reach park rangers at 855-289-7412 at any time (the dispatcher will take your contact information and have a ranger call). **In case of emergency, call 911.** The nearest hospital is West Jefferson Medical Center near the intersection of Barataria Blvd./Highway 45 and the Westbank Expressway/Business Route 90.

A valid Louisiana state fishing license is required. The Barataria Preserve is a freshwater habitat; be sure you have the correct license.

Know the state size and creel limits. Due to the increasing number of species with size and creel limits, anglers are required to release many of the fish they catch. If handled properly, these fish have a very good chance to live, grow, and provide further opportunities for Louisiana anglers.

Do not fish from boardwalks, trails, or bridges. Twin Canals is the only place in the preserve where you can fish from a trail.

Leave the plants and animals as you find them. Harassing, collecting, feeding, or releasing any animal (including insects) can cause direct harm or stress for the animal and reduce its chance for survival. Releasing non-native species (bait) into the habitat can harm the habitat for the fish and other animals and plants living in the preserve. Picking plants could remove seeds necessary for the plants to reproduce next year, food sources for wildlife, and flowers for other visitors to enjoy.

Leave throw-away food and drink containers at your car. Litter in the preserve decreases enjoyment for other visitors, pollutes the water, and causes harm to wildlife. Carry a water bottle or canteen while out fishing. If you must bring food and drink containers with you, **pack out all of your trash** (and remember that trash includes unused bait and other items you intend to dispose of). Trashcans are located at all the trailheads, canoe launches, and at the visitor center.

Crawfishing

The season for harvesting crawfish at the Barataria Preserve for recreational and subsistence purposes is open from **March 1 to June 30**.

Crawfishing is limited to roadsides and along Wood Duck Trail.

Crawfish may be harvested from the Barataria Preserve the preserve harvesting season provided that all nets and traps are constantly tended and are **harvested by the following means: use of baited lift type mesh nets or use of baited wire traps not to exceed ten (10) per person**. The park superintendent reserves the authority to close any or all areas of the Barataria Preserve to crawfishing if it is determined that said activity is incompatible with other approved uses or when the resource or habitat would be adversely affected by continued harvesting.