

Sport fishing on the St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge, Franklin County, Apalachicola, Florida is permitted as a use that is compatible with the area's primary objectives of protection and management of endangered species and migratory birds. Fishing seasons are designed to minimize disturbances to endangered species such as nesting bald eagles.

Open areas

Open freshwater areas, comprising 272 acres, are shown on the map. The provisions of these specific regulations supplement the regulations which govern fishing on wildlife refuge areas which are set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 33.

Sport fishing shall be in accordance with all applicable State and Federal regulations subject to the following specific regulations:

1. Fishing is permitted from sunrise to sunset.
2. Boats with electric motors are permitted. All other motors must be removed from the boats and secured to a motor rack with a lock and chain.
3. Boats may not be left on the refuge over night and camping is prohibited.
4. The use of live minnows as bait is not permitted.
5. Fishing is permitted in Lakes 1, 2, and Oyster Pond, April 1 - September 30.
6. Fishing is permitted in Lakes 3, 4, and 5, May15- September 30.

**St. Vincent
National Wildlife Refuge**
P.O. Box 447
Apalachicola, FL 32329
850/653 8808
r4rw_fl.svn@fws.gov

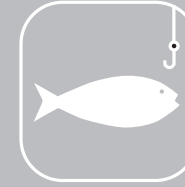
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov/~r4eao>

February 1999



St. Vincent

National Wildlife Refuge Fishing Regulations 1999



Additional information

St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge is a 12,350 acre undeveloped barrier island located in Franklin County approximately 9 miles offshore from Apalachicola.

Freshwater Lakes

The freshwater Lakes 1-5 can be reached from the island's east shoreline near West Pass. The Outlet Channel near West Pass may be used for access to Lakes 1-4. Lakes 1-4 are connected by small pole-boat channels. Access is easier with small boats, therefore, tow boats are normally required to fish on St. Vincent Island; the usual pond-type jon boat (approximately 14') for use in the lake system and a larger boat for safe and efficient travel on coastal waters.

Lake 5 cannot be reached by boat and has very limited fishing shoreline due to extreme-dense marsh vegetation. Oyster Pond can be reached by entering the pond's outlet channel on the island's south shoreline three miles west of West Pass. Lakes 1-4 cannot be reached by boat from Oyster Pond.

Water Control Structure

The St. Vincent Creek water control structure will be open during April, May, and June. Low water levels may make access difficult to Lakes 1 thru 5 during that time period. Due to the

drought in 1998, the fish populations are low in all the lakes. Oyster Pond will be drawn down in mid-to-late summer making access difficult.

Surf Fishing

In addition to seasonal fishing in the interior lakes, year-round surf fishing is permitted, except in signed Bird Use/Closed Areas. A saltwater fishing license is required.

