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## **B. Species to be Taken, Hunting periods, Hunting Access**

Alligator: All State of Georgia Regulations will apply and the season will be limited to two three-day hunts within the state season. Hunters will access the lake using the refuge boat ramp.

## **C. Hunter Permit Requirements (if applicable)**

Georgia's alligator hunting season has been designated as a quota hunt where a limited number of hunters are allowed to harvest one alligator (of 48 inches or greater length) each from a specified hunt zone. This allows the Georgia DNR to closely monitor the number of animals harvested. See "Hunter Permit Application and/or Registration Procedures" below.

Anyone hunting or assisting a Georgia DNR alligator permit holder must possess a valid Hunting License. Hunters age 15 and younger need not have a Hunting License. In order to hunt unsupervised, they must have a valid Hunter Education Certificate. An Alligator Harvest Permit must be in possession of a person in the hunting party.

## **D. Consultation and Coordination with the State**

This hunt will only be operated and conducted in coordination with Georgia DNR, pending a Memorandum of Understanding between agencies. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will not dedicate any resources or employees towards the management of the hunt.

Georgia DNR has conducted alligator population surveys on Banks Lake NWR from 2013-2017. They will continue to provide alligator survey information to the Service to ensure a viable population of alligators.

Georgia DNR agrees that a refuge hunt plan will help meet State objectives. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Georgia DNR will continue to work together to ensure safe and enjoyable recreational hunting opportunities. Hunter participation and harvest data will be shared annually.

## **E. Law Enforcement**

Enforcement of Refuge violations normally associated with management of a National Wildlife Refuge is the responsibility of commissioned Federal Wildlife Officers. Other refuge officers, Special Agents, State Rangers, and the local Sheriff's Department often assist the Okefenokee NWR full time Federal Wildlife Officer. Due to the location of Banks Lake NWR and the lack of resources at Okefenokee NWR, Georgia DNR will be the main law enforcement agency to safeguard hunters, visitors, and both game and nongame species.

The following methods are used to control and enforce hunting regulations:

- Refuge boundaries will be clearly posted;
- Georgia DNR Rangers will randomly check hunters for compliance with State Laws.