
Appendix C. Intra-Service Section 7 Biological Evaluation

REGION 4

INTRA-SERVICE SECTION 7 BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION FORM

[Note: This form provides the outline of information needed for intra-Service consultation. If additional space is needed, attach additional sheets, or set up this form to accommodate your responses.]

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Date: November 26, 2019

PROJECT NAME: American Alligator Hunting at Banks Lake National Wildlife Refuge

- I. Service Program: Refuges
- II. State/Agency: Georgia / U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- III. Station Name: Banks Lake National Wildlife Refuge
- IV. Description of Preferred Action:

The alligator population in Georgia is one of many renewable natural resources that can sustain limited harvest. 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. Banks Lake NWR is within Zone 4. This allows the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to closely monitor the number of animals harvested.

All portions of the Refuge covered by water would be open to hunting; however, hunting would be limited by accessibility.

All State of Georgia Regulations would apply and the season would be limited to the first two weekends within the state season, generally between mid-August and early October. Legal hours are from sunset Friday and end at sunrise on Monday. Hunters would access the lake using the Refuge boat ramp.

Hunters may use hand-held ropes or snares, snatch hooks, harpoons, gigs or arrows with a restraining line attached. Legal alligators must be dispatched immediately upon capture by using a handgun or bangstick, or by severing the spinal cord with a sharp implement.