Stormwater Treatment Area Alligator Harvest Units

Through a cooperative effort between the <u>South Florida Water Management District</u> (SFWMD) and <u>Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission</u>, special alligator hunting opportunities are being offered on Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) in south Florida: STA-1W North, STA-1W South, STA-2, STA-3/4 East, STA-3/4 West, and STA-5/6 (maps of the areas follow). The STAs are constructed wetland impoundments designed to reduce the amount of phosphorus going into the Everglades ecosystem. The numerous levees, water control structures and monitoring equipment within the STAs are critical to the success of the phosphorus control program. Any damage to these facilities as a result of public access could restrict the continued public use of these areas.

The STAs differ from traditional alligator harvest units in the following ways:

- No motorized boats are allowed. Alligator trapping activities must be conducted from boats that can be poled or paddled, or from the levees. Backing trailers down levees is prohibited.
- Alligator hunters are required to enter and exit the area at a designated entrance, check in and out at the check station, record their harvest, and provide all requested information. Note: Because of construction activities, the check station on STA-1W is at a new location. Please see attached area map.
- Access to the STAs is limited to STA permit holders and their licensed agents. Non-participating observers may accompany alligator hunters in their immediate vicinity (100 feet or less); however, each hunting party is limited to two vehicles.
- Vehicles and equipment may not obstruct a levee.
- Possession or use of dogs is prohibited.
- Access is prohibited on SFWMD structures and equipment.
- Airboats, tracked vehicles, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, and swamp buggies are prohibited.

Harvest periods are also different from other harvest units. Hunting is allowed on Friday and Saturday nights (5PM on Friday overnight to 10AM Saturday, and Saturday 5PM overnight to 10AM Sunday), and on the first Sunday evening (5PM-Midnight) of each harvest period (August 20, August 27, and October 1). The following dates are open to alligator hunting on the STAs in 2017:

Period 1: August 18 – 20 and September 1 - 3 **Period 2:** August 25 – 27 and September 8 - 10

Non-quota period: September 29 – October 1, October 6 - 8, 13 - 15, 20 - 22 and 27 - 29

The STAs are only open to public access as specified by the South Florida Water Management District. Access for scouting by alligator hunt permit holders will be allowed on **Saturday, August 12 from 6PM to 10PM.**

Please note that it is a violation of Florida Statutes (403.413) to litter. The disposal of alligator carcasses on the STAs is littering. You should remove alligators from the area in a whole condition.

We hope that you have a fun, safe, and exciting alligator hunt on the STAs. For more information about alligator hunting, please visit Statewide Alligator Harvest Program website.







