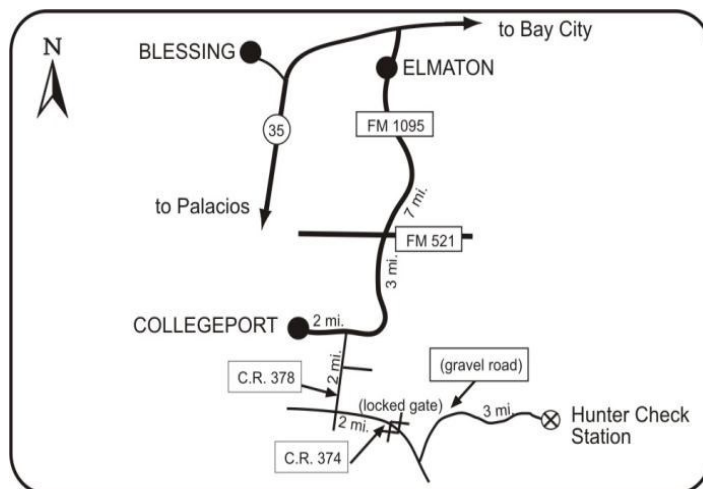




## Mad Island WMA Alligator Hunts

### Background

Mad Island Wildlife Management Area is located 6 miles east of the town of Collegeport in Matagorda County. The area consists of 7,281 acres of fresh to saline marsh purchased in 1987 with funds provided by the Texas waterfowl hunting stamp. Mad Island is bordered to the south by West Matagorda Bay and to the west by a branch of the Colorado River. The gate on C.R. 374 is unlocked during times of scheduled public use. Hunters should be prepared to walk up to .5 miles in wetland habitat to reach their hunting site.



### Public Hunting

Permitted hunters should report to the WMA headquarters by 10:00 am on the first day of their assigned hunt period. Hunters must contact the area as soon as possible if they are unable to attend their accepted hunt or not able to arrive on the first day for orientation. Standby hunters should report to the WMA by 10:00 a.m. on the first day of the desired hunt period to complete the application process. Standby hunters will be drawn at 11:00 a.m. as vacancies permit. All hunters will be required to undergo a brief orientation session immediately prior to the beginning of each hunt. No refunds or hunter substitutions are permitted. Only hunters listed on the permit will be allowed to accompany the hunt party. Camping is not permitted at the WMA. Commercial lodging may be obtained in Palacios or Bay City.

Your alligator hunt permit and hunting license must be presented upon check in. Each hunter regardless of age, must possess a hunting license, which can be purchased at any license vendor. These licenses are not sold at the WMA, so you must purchase your license before arrival. An additional \$126 tag fee will be assessed in the event you are successful in harvesting an alligator and opt to sell the alligator in the commercial market. (No tag fee for personal use.) Each hunter listed on the permit will be allowed to harvest one alligator during the hunt.

Legal methods for taking alligators will include (1) hook and line, (2) archery with retrieval line, (3) hand-held snare and (4) harpoon or gig. Shotguns with nontoxic shot may be used to dispatch alligators secured on line or snare but may not be used to shoot at free swimming alligators.

The following is recommended for each hunting party: One or more of the following legal means and methods of taking an alligator:

- a. Hook and Line (limit of 1 set per hunter) non-stainless-steel hook of at least 9-0 size, 3 to 6 feet of leader material and 50-100 feet of rope (at least 300# test) per set, one pound of bait per set (beef spleen or 1/2 chicken), sledgehammer or single blade axe for driving stakes. Area staff will supply one cane pole and stake per set (return required).
- b. Archery- longbow, recurve bow, compound or crossbow with reel device and arrows with line of at least 300# test securely attached to the barbed fish point.
- c. Hand-held Snare- size No. 4 or larger with integral locking mechanism attached to 50 feet of at least 300# test line and a long pole.
- d. Harpoon or Gig- may be used only when a line of at least 300# test is securely attached to the hook or head of the device in such a manner to prevent separation from the hook or head until the carcass is retrieved. The other end of the line must be attached to a stationary or floating object capable of maintaining the line above water when an alligator is attached. A shotgun is recommended for dispatching alligators secured on line or snare. **Non-Toxic Shot Is Required** on the WMA and light shotshell loads with #4 or #6 shot are adequate. Rifles and handguns are prohibited. Mad Island contains 3 primary lakes for which the majority of the alligators are taken. A small boat, one that is suitable for hand launch (canoe, small aluminum boat) is recommended, but not a necessity. No outboards are allowed on the area. Electric motors are recommended. Hunters should be prepared for shallow water travel and aquatic vegetation. The following additional equipment is considered necessary for alligator hunters: Paddles, push poles, extra battery for trolling motor, hip boots or waders, rain gear, flashlight, shotgun with nontoxic shotshells, knife, insect repellent, sunscreen and drinking water. Be prepared for heavy mosquito infestation.

If you have further questions, call the Mad Island WMA headquarters at (979) 323-9579 or (979) 323-9669.

**All persons entering the area do so at their own risk.** The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department assumes no responsibility for personal injury or property damage.