

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE

A quick look at hunting and fishing at MCAS Beaufort and Laurel Bay.

Natural Resources & Environmental Affairs Office 



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

MCAS Beaufort is home to a variety of fish and wildlife. Opportunities exist to authorized people for both freshwater and saltwater fishing, as well as for hunting both large and small game. Authorized people include: active duty and retired military personnel and their dependents; current and retired civilian government employees and their dependents; and sponsored guests of those military and civilian personnel. Spotted sea trout, shrimp, and blue crabs are commonly caught from the saltwater piers on MCAS and Laurel Bay. Freshwater species found on MCAS include bass and bream. Whitetail deer and squirrel are the most sought after species for hunters.

Your responsibility as a hunter/fisher is to obtain the appropriate state issued license and Air Station issued permits annually. As a hunter, you are also required to attend an annual safety briefing presented by the Air Station Game Warden. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Persons under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a licensed adult.

PERMITS AND LICENSES



Air Station permits are available to authorized personnel for fishing, hunting, or a combination of both free of charge. South Carolina (SC) State Licenses, for both hunting and fishing, are available from local merchants or through the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (www.dnr.sc.gov). Active duty military personnel stationed in SC, regardless of residence, are entitled to receive a SC State License at resident rates. Licenses are required to hunt and/or fish for anyone 16 years old and older. **All Air Station Permits and SC licenses expire on June 30 of each year. Both must be renewed annually.**



SALTWATER FISHING

Individuals saltwater fishing, crabbing, or shrimping from the pier, docks, or shore lines at MCAS Beaufort or Laurel Bay are required to obtain a SC Saltwater Fishing License. Individuals operating fishing boats launched from the Air Station, Laurel Bay, or any public landing must also possess a state issued saltwater fishing license. Boat operators under 16 years of age must complete a boater's safety training course. Children 12 years old and under are required to wear life jackets while on or near any pier, boat ramp, or dock on MCAS or Laurel Bay.

Saltwater Fishing Limits

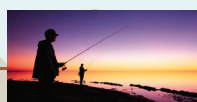
Fish: All size and catch limits for saltwater fish are in accordance with state regulations.

Shrimp: 48 quarts whole or 29 quarts headed per boat or per person if no boat is used. The season runs from May 1 through Dec 15. From Dec 16 to Apr 30, possession limit for shrimp is 12 dozen. Baiting for shrimp is prohibited within 50 yards of any fixed structure, including the piers on MCAS and Laurel Bay.

Crabbing: Only 2 pots per person. They can not be left unattended. Blue crabs- no limit; must be 5" point to point; females bearing eggs must be returned to the water unharmed. Stone Crabs- no limit; Only crabs with 2 claws may have one removed; females bearing eggs must be returned to the water unharmed.

Oysters and Clams: Gathering of oysters and clams is not authorized aboard MCAS Beaufort or Laurel Bay.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL FISHING, SHRIMPING, OR CRABBING TO KNOW THE LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS OF THE SPECIES THEY CATCH OR TRAP.



FRESHWATER FISHING

Individuals fishing in any of the Air Station ponds must have a SC Freshwater Fishing License and a Base permit. Temporary Base permits are available from the Game Warden or the Provost Marshal's Office. The temporary permits are valid for 3 days. Yearly permits can be obtained from the Game Warden by completing an application and presenting a valid state fishing license.

Freshwater Fishing Limits

Fish: Fish can only be kept from Scout and Round Island Ponds. All other ponds are catch and release only.

Bass: 3 per person per day, minimum 16"

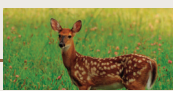
Bream: 20 per person per day

Catfish: 3 per person per day, minimum 16"

Grass Carp: Return all to pond unharmed

THE RULES: FISHING

- Fishing is allowed 24 hours a day; no sign-in required.
- Do not feed or provoke the wildlife around the ponds or water.
- Adhere to safety and boating rules in and around water.
- No swimming or wading in the fish ponds.
- No nets, seines, and trotlines.
- No gasoline-fueled motors can be used in ponds.
- DIAL 911 in case of an emergency. Telephones are available for emergency use in the general area of each pond.



HUNTING

MCAS Beaufort requires individuals hunting large or small game to obtain the proper South Carolina Hunting License and an Air Station Hunting Permit. To receive an Air Station hunting permit, individuals must complete an application, attend the annual hunter's safety briefing, and provide proof of weapon registration. Air Station permits can be obtained only through the Game Warden. Individuals born after 1979 must have a hunter education card from any state.

Weapon Registration

All weapons introduced to MCAS Beaufort and Laurel Bay must be registered with the Pass & ID office by providing the make, model, caliber, and serial number. **DO NOT TAKE WEAPONS TO THE PASS & ID OFFICE!**

If at a later date a new weapon is purchased for hunting, the hunter is responsible for contacting the Pass & ID Office to register the weapon, as well as the Game Warden to add the new weapon to the hunter's application.

Hunting Limits

Deer: Deer season runs from Aug 15 to Jan 1 (bucks only Aug 15 to Sep 15). Harvest limits are set by Base Game Warden and are in accordance with state regulations.

Small game (squirrel/rabbit/raccoon): Seasons/limits in accordance with state regulations.

Game birds (turkey/dove/duck): no open season on MCAS or Laurel Bay. **Hunting game birds is strictly prohibited.**

THE RULES: HUNTING

- Hunt in approved areas only with registered weapons.
- Sign-in with the Provost Marshall's Office prior to the start of each hunt and sign-out at the conclusion of the hunt.
- Only portable tree stands are authorized and must be removed at the end of the day's hunt.
- Report any game illegally or accidentally killed immediately to the Game Warden.
- Only shotguns with buckshot and bows are allowed. Rifles, black powder guns, crossbows, nets, snares, or bait poisons are prohibited.
- No off-road driving.
- No turkey and fox hunting.
- Baiting for deer is allowed only in approved areas.

OTHER RULES



- DO NOT FEED, MOLEST, OR TRAP WILDLIFE.
- TRAPPING, FEEDING, KILLING, OR MOLESTING ALLIGATORS IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.
- THE KILLING OR MOLESTING OF NON-GAME BIRDS IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.
- The Air Station is home to birds of prey such as Osprey, Hawks, Pelicans, and Eagles. If an animal is found injured, immediately contact the Game Warden or NREAO Natural Resource Manager.
- Report nuisance wildlife such as alligators, racoons, snakes, etc to the NREAO Game Warden at 228-7017.

The information in this poster is not intended to be all inclusive and may change without notice. Details on the rules and regulations for Air Station hunting and fishing are available in ASO 1700.2E or by contacting the Air Station Game Warden. Additional information on state regulations and requirements is found at the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources website (www.dnr.sc.gov)

Game Warden
Bldg 1036
Phone (843) 228-7017
Mobile (843) 321-6453

Natural Resources Manager
Bldg 1036
Phone (843) 228-7464

