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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge
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News Release



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The US Fish & Wildlife Service Announces Lottery to Issue Commercial Fishing Guide Permit

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will begin accepting applications for a limited number of commercial fishing guide permits beginning December 20th, 2018. Persons who do not currently possess a permit to guide on the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, and would like to secure one, have until January 20, 2019 to submit their application. Your application must be postmarked before January 20th, 2019. Applications are available on-line at [http://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/3-1383-C\(5\).pdf](http://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/3-1383-C(5).pdf) and can be emailed or delivered via the U.S. Postal Service.

Submitted applications will be placed into a lottery. There are 68 permitted fishing guides; 2 permits are available for 2019. The names drawn will receive a prorated permit for February 1, 2019. The drawing will be held on January 24, 2019 at the Refuge Visitor Center.

A commercial special use permit is required to conduct any sort of commercial activity on the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. The number of fishing guide permits issued was set at 70 by the Refuge's comprehensive conservation plan which went into effect in 2007. The plan can be viewed on the Refuge website: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Merritt_Island/Forms.html.aspx. Selected individuals must meet all stipulations including liability insurance, licensing and all other requirements before receiving a permit. For more information about fishing guide requirements and/or the lottery, please contact Tina Pritchard at 321-861-5601.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.
