

Pointe Mouillee Manager's Update 2016 Season - Week ending 12/04



Weather

Temperatures started out in the mid 50's dropping to the mid 40's by the weekend. Winds were out of the WSW (10-25mph) turning to the W (5-15mph) by the weekend.

Waterfowl Abundance

Duck numbers on the game area rebounded after the units opened back up. Mallards and Gadwall are the dominant species. Redheads, Scaup and ring neck numbers are holding steady in the Banana Dike.

Hunting Conditions

2016 was a lot better than last year. We had an early spring and were able to start working our fields in April. We have great corn production in the Nelson and Walpatich Units even with the extreme heat and very limited rainfall this summer. We also have great buckwheat and millet production in the Nelson, Walpatich and Bad Creek Units.

• Managed Zones/Hunting Outlook

- 2-10 Long Pond Unit – Managed Cattail Marsh – same as last year, great cover, great potholes, and great marsh hunting opportunity
- 11-14 Nelson Unit – Flooded Ag Fields – There is good buckwheat/millet production along with excellent corn cover; corn height 6-8ft
- 15-19 and 21 Walpatich Unit – Ag fields and cattail marsh – Zones 15 & 16 have good corn cover with corn height 5-6' tall. This year we planted soybeans in the middle of the corn strips to provide hunters with an opportunity for a dry hunt especially in zone 15. Zone 17 has excellent corn cover with corn height 6-8' tall and good buckwheat production. Zones 19 & 21 have excellent corn cover with corn height 6-8' tall and good buckwheat production.
- 20, 22 Walpatich Unit – Managed cattail marsh – 20 and 22 will be the same as last year, great cover, great potholes, great marsh hunting opportunity

• Open Hunting Outlook

- Humphries Unit was very shallow this summer due to evaporation from the extreme heat we experienced. We have added some water to this unit and flat bottom boats with mud motors are able to get around. We are in the process of hiring a contractor to fill the end tubes of the water control structure that are completely rusted and leaking. This project should take place sometime this fall.
- Vermet Unit was drawn down in June to promote the growth of vegetation on the north and east parts of the unit. The west and south parts of the unit will once again be very good marsh hunting. We will add water to this unit for waterfowl season.
- Bad Creek - Bad Creek is a new unit in just its third season with water control. It is positioned on the west side of the Humphries off of Roberts Rd. It is still a work in progress but there will be flooded buckwheat and lots of opportunity for walk-in hunting.

Pointe Mouillee Manager's Update 2016 Season - Week ending 12/04 Cont...



Hunter Numbers

Only for the 24 managed zones
200 hunter trips for November 27th, 29th, Dec 1st and 4th
November 27th AM draw 13 parties 35 hunter trips
November 27th PM draw 15 parties 31 hunter trips
November 29th AM draw 10 parties 20 hunter trips
December 1st AM draw 11 parties 19 hunter trips
December 1st PM draw 8 parties 20 hunter trips
December 4th AM draw 19 parties 45 hunter trips
December 4th PM draw 10 parties 30 hunter trips

Waterfowl Harvest

Only for the 24 managed zones
November 27th, 29th, Dec 1st and 4th – 43 ducks
0.20 ducks/hunter trip
November 27th AM 6 ducks 0 geese; PM 7 ducks 0 geese
November 29th AM 6 ducks 0 geese
December 1st AM 6 ducks 0 geese; PM 7 ducks 0 geese
December 4th AM 6 ducks 0 geese; PM 5 ducks 0 geese

Hunters harvested mainly Mallards (81%) and Gadwalls (11%)

What To Expect This Week

Temperatures will be in the low to mid 30's with snow a chance of snow on Sunday. Winds will be out of the WSW 10-25mph.

Upcoming Events

All of Pointe Mouillee State Game Area will be open on December 16, 2016 – September 1, 2017. The Waterfowl 2-day split is December 31 – January 1. All units are open to waterfowl hunting and there will be NO draw for the 2 day split.

Other Comments

Pointe Mouillee Managed Hunting Changes: The shot shell limit has been increased from 18 shells to 25 shells each. The check station will remain open until 4:00pm on Sundays and Thursdays for hunters to come in and take a left-over zone.