

**Division of Wildlife Conservation**  
**Eddie Grasser, Director**  
Headquarters  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



**Alaska Department of Fish and Game**  
**Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner**  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
[www.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov)

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**CONTACT: Joe Meehan**  
**Statewide Program Coordinator**  
**Lands and Refuge Program**  
**(907) 267-2281**

### **Rabbit Slough Boat Launch Improvements Underway**

(Statewide) – Public access to Rabbit Slough and Wasilla Creek in the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge will be temporarily disrupted this spring as the Alaska Department of Fish and Game works to upgrade the boat launch facility. The boat launch and parking lot closest to the launch will be closed to public access for the duration of the project, which is currently underway and is expected to wrap up by mid-May. The second parking lot located approximately 100 yards from launch will remain open for public parking and safe pedestrian and bike routes around the construction zone will be provided. Temporary delays on the access road may be encountered to allow equipment and materials to safely access the site. Refuge visitors are asked to respect the traffic control signs and be observant of equipment working at the site.

Located in southcentral Alaska, the refuge is within easy driving distance for more than half of Alaska's residents. The refuge is a popular site for fishing, waterfowl hunting, wildlife viewing, hiking, canoeing, camping, and winter activities such as cross-country skiing, ice skating, and winter bike riding. The new hardened boat launch will allow summer and fall users, particularly during the salmon fishing and waterfowl hunting seasons, to more easily launch boats and avoid damaging important stream habitat.

Funding for this project is made possible by the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson Act), which places a national excise tax on gun and ammunition sales.

Contact Joe Meehan, Lands and Refuges Program Coordinator at 907.267.2281 or [joe.meehan@alaska.gov](mailto:joe.meehan@alaska.gov) for more information.

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