

Doug Vincent-Lang  
Commissioner



Department of  
Fish and Game

Eddie Grasser, Director

Division of Wildlife Conservation

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

### **Rabbit Slough Boat Ramp Now Open**

May 18, 2020 (Statewide) – Waterfowl hunters, anglers, and other boaters will now find it more convenient and safer to launch at Rabbit Slough with the opening of a newly constructed boat ramp. The new cement ramp is the final major improvement being made by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) at this public access site to help facilitate growing public use while minimizing impacts to fish and wildlife habitats.

The Rabbit Slough boat launch is located within the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge near the intersection of the Parks and Glenn highways, and can be reached from the Glenn Highway frontage road at the Trunk Road exit. Rabbit Slough is one of four primary public access sites to the refuge. Doug Hill, Refuge Manager for the ADF&G stated, “while always popular with fall waterfowl hunters and summer anglers pursuing salmon on Wasilla Creek, Rabbit Slough now attracts hundreds of other users including summer bird watchers and in winter, cross-country skiers and bike riders.” Hill also noted that Rabbit Slough is becoming particularly popular with winter Nordic skaters as it provides endless opportunities on miles of frozen sloughs, creeks, ponds, and wetlands.

Joe Meehan, Refuges Program Coordinator for the ADF&G, pointed out that while the refuge’s primary purpose is to protect fish and wildlife habitats and preserve associated public uses of those resources such as fishing, hunting and trapping, other activities are allowed and welcomed provided they don’t impact habitats. Meehan stated that in addition to the ramp, past improvements have included upgrades to the access road, expanded parking, and other improvements that allow for more convenient and safer access to the site. Funding for these projects came from the federal Wildlife Restoration Program (Pittman-Robertson Act) which generates funds through a national excise tax on firearms and ammunition, receipts from hunting license sales, and wetland mitigation funds generated from the Parks-Glenn Highway interchange expansion.

The Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge encompasses over 30,000 acres of wetlands and other rich habitats at the head of Cook Inlet and is easily accessible to over half of Alaska’s population. Other public access sites include Reflections Lake at milepost 30 on the Glenn Highway and Cottonwood Creek off Hayfield Road. More information of this refuge and the other refuge areas managed by the ADF&G is available online at [www.refuges.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.refuges.adfg.alaska.gov).

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