



Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission recommends establishing a new program for experimental commercial fishing methods to help reduce invasive carp in state waters

Board also proposed amendments to special hunting opportunities

NOTE: The following is a summary of action taken by the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission at a regular meeting on June 16, 2023. Official meeting minutes will be reviewed at a future meeting. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources provides this summary to enhance the public's awareness about potential changes to hunting, fishing, boating or other related regulations.

FRANKFORT, Ky. (July 5, 2023) — In a meeting held June 16, the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission recommended to amend the state regulations 301 KAR 1:152 and 301 KAR 5:022 to establish an Experimental Commercial Fishing Methods program to help reduce invasive carp in Kentucky waters.

If approved, the new program would allow commercial fishers to use special commercial fishing gear to test new methods to further the goal of Asian carp harvest in mass quantities while still being eligible for the existing carp subsidy.

The commission also voted unanimously to recommend:

- Creation of a regulation that will allow for special mentored hunts to be conducted as department-sponsored events on all three conservation camp properties owned/leased/ran by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.
- Amend and clarify the state regulation 301 KAR 3:100 that allows for additional Special Commission Permits for additional fundraising opportunities by qualifying Kentucky nonprofit conservation organizations.

In addition, the commission voted unanimously to continue pursuing the acquisition of three parcels of land as part of the department's Kentucky Wetland and Stream Mitigation Program.

The commission also discussed modifications to commercial fishing regulations and locations, commercial guide licensing and fees, the prohibition of wild pig hunting, and new business items across a variety of fishing and hunting topics. These topics are slated for action or further discussion at the next quarterly commission meeting.

A replay of the live video teleconference meeting is available on demand on Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's YouTube channel.

Individuals or organizations may contact their district representative on the commission about any pertinent topic of concern. Procedures for submitting public comments about current business items via email or in person are outlined in the agenda for each meeting, which is generally posted 1-2 weeks prior to the meeting date.

The commission, a nine-member board comprised of volunteers who serve four-year terms, recommends hunting, fishing and boating regulations on behalf of the anglers, hunters, and other wildlife-related stakeholders in the commonwealth. Any recommendation by the commission to amend or create a state administrative regulation must receive legislative approval before becoming law. The process of promulgating regulations spans several months.

The next quarterly commission meeting is Friday, September 22, in Frankfort.

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