

**Fisheries Bulletin  
of the Kentucky  
Department  
of Fish and  
Wildlife Resources**

**A Survey of Trout Anglers in Kentucky  
Opinions, Attitudes and Uses**

**by  
Dave Dreves**

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**A Survey of Trout Anglers in Kentucky  
Opinions, Attitudes and Uses**

**By**

**Dave Dreves**

**2005**

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## Abstract

A sample of 6250 trout permit purchasers in 2002 was surveyed to determine trout angler attitudes regarding fisheries resources, regulations, programs and needs. A subset of questions in the survey dealt strictly with issues surrounding the Lake Cumberland tailwater. A total of 3,490 usable completed questionnaires were returned for a return rate of over 64%. The margin of error is 1.5 – 2.0 percentage points of the true value at the 95% confident level. The typical Kentucky trout angler considers him or herself an experienced angler (63%), but does not belong to any kind of organized trout fishing club (93%). They fish with natural baits most often (44%), yet on average release 54% of the trout they catch. They sometimes fish with spinning/casting artificial lures (48%), but never fly fish (59%), never troll with artificial lures (65%) and never fish with artificially scented baits, like Power Bait (45%). Trout anglers in 2002 spent on average about 18 days fishing for trout with the most time spent fishing the Lake Cumberland tailwater (38%) and lakes and reservoirs (26%). The number one trout fishing location in Kentucky is the Lake Cumberland tailwater with 47% of respondents saying they had fished for trout there in 2002. Results of the questions specific to the Lake Cumberland tailwater showed strong support on three different issues: 1) imposing some sort of size limit on rainbow trout, 2) reducing the rainbow trout creel limit and 3) designating the Lake Cumberland tailwater as trout waters which would require all users to possess the trout permit. All these changes in trout regulations on the Lake Cumberland tailwater have already been implemented since the completion of this survey. This data should be used as a starting point for further cross-reference analysis to answer future questions regarding trout management in Kentucky. Five recommendations are given for improvement of the trout program in Kentucky.

## Introduction

Fishing is an important recreational activity enjoyed by over one million men, women and children each year in the state of Kentucky (U.S. Department of Interior 2001). There are 41,000 trout anglers who fished an estimated 261,000 days for trout in 2001. The Fisheries Division of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) manages a total of 295.4 miles (88.4 miles in tailwaters) of trout fisheries in 65 streams that include 14 tailwaters. The Fisheries Division has periodically surveyed constituents to gain insight into angler attitudes regarding fisheries resources, regulations, programs and needs. This information is used to assist in making decisions on where to focus management efforts and where resources can best be utilized. The Fisheries Division surveyed Kentucky anglers with a mail survey in 1982 (Kinman and Hoyt 1984) and a telephone survey in 1991 (Hale et al. 1992). Each of these surveys focused on general statewide attitudes and opinions. There has never been a survey conducted that specifically targeted Kentucky trout anglers until this survey was undertaken in the spring of 2003.

## Methods

The trout angler attitude survey was designed to gather information from the broad spectrum of trout anglers on their fishing habits and opinions. Contemporary literature was reviewed (Salant and Dillman 1994, Dillman 2000) and brainstorming sessions held with KDFWR staff in order to assist with survey question design. Many of the questions were designed using the Likert scale type of multiple-choice response. The Likert scales were set up with 5 possible responses: a moderate or neutral answer surrounded with a "Somewhat" for and against and a "Strongly" or "Very" for and against, with an additional "No Opinion" response. The survey was pretested in-house using a small number both experienced and inexperienced trout anglers.

The survey sample was selected from the total population of all anglers who purchased a trout permit in 2002 (20,602). The sample does not include children under age 16 or adults over age 65 because these two populations are exempt from having to purchase the Kentucky trout permit. With a population of this size (> 20,000), a minimum of 400 responses was needed for statistical significance at the 95% confidence level. Very conservative estimates on the number of bad addresses and return rates were made to ensure an adequate beginning sample size was selected. It was estimated that 10% of addresses would be undeliverable and that 30% of the anglers who received the first mail out of the survey would return a completed questionnaire. It was estimated that an additional 25% would return a completed questionnaire after a second mailing of the survey. A subset of questions in the survey dealt strictly with issues surrounding the Lake Cumberland tailwater, Kentucky's most popular trout fishery. Prior to the survey it was estimated that at least 25% of all trout permit purchasers fished this tailwater, so once a conservative estimate of how big a sample size was needed for all questions, that number was multiplied by four to ensure that there was a minimum of 400 completed surveys of anglers who fished the Lake Cumberland tailwater. Using the above criteria it was estimated that the sample size needed would be 6,250 potential respondents. Generating random numbers and associating each with an alphabetized mailing list of all trout permit purchasers from the KDFWR license database was the procedure used to randomize the sample. The list was then sorted in ascending order by the random number field and the first 6,250 records were selected as the survey mailing list.

A press release and an appearance on the Kentucky Afield television show were conducted to inform the angling public about the survey and encourage those selected to fill out and return the survey in the hopes of maximizing the response rate. We also used a methodology that prescribed multiple contacts with each potential respondent to maximize response rate. Each person on the mailing list was first sent a notification letter by first class mail that they soon would be receiving the survey (Figure 1). All undelivered mail returned was checked off in the database as a "bad address". One week after mailing the notification letter, each person was sent a packet that included a personalized cover letter (Figure 2), a trout survey questionnaire (see Appendix A for an example which includes the final results inserted among the questions), and a postage paid return envelope. Completed questionnaires began arriving within two days of the first mailing of the survey. Each trout survey questionnaire had an identification

number printed on the back that allowed us to check off each returned survey from the mailing list as it was received. One week following the first mailing of the survey, each person was sent a reminder/thank you postcard (Figure 3). Following which, after an additional two weeks, any person from the original mailing list who hadn't already returned a survey or been checked off as a bad address was mailed another packet that included a different personalized cover letter (Figure 4), another trout survey and another postage paid return envelope. All survey questionnaires received were sent to Kentucky Correctional Industries to be keypunched into computer files. Data from each survey questionnaire was keypunched twice and then the two versions compared to eliminate any keypunching errors. The survey data was analyzed using SPSS version 11.5 statistical software.

## Results

A timeline was created for the implementation of the trout angler attitude survey (Figure 5). A total of 6,250 surveys were mailed out on March 3, 2004. The follow-up mailing of surveys was sent out on April 21, 2004 to 3,412 people who hadn't yet returned a survey. A total of 3,490 usable completed questionnaires were returned. This resulted in an effective response rate of over 64% after accounting for bad addresses (730), surveys returned uncompleted (43), and deceased (4). Given the number of usable questionnaires returned, and barring any other bias, we can be 95% confident that the stated results of most questions are within 1.5 – 2.0 percentage points of the true value (exact margin of error for any particular question is dependent on how many respondents answered the question).

Seventy seven percent (2,682) of the completed questionnaires came from the first mailing and 23% (808) from the second. The date surveys were returned was recorded in the database to allow an examination of return patterns (Figure 6). The return pattern made it very obvious that each time a contact was made through a mailing, the returns jumped up for a time, indicating the importance of the multiple contact method. See Appendix A for an example of the questionnaire with summarized final results.

### *Angler Profile*

The typical Kentucky angler who purchases a trout permit considers him or herself an experienced angler (63%), but does not belong to any kind of organized trout fishing club (93%). They fish with natural baits most often (44%), yet on average release 54% of the trout they catch. The typical trout permit purchaser sometimes fishes with spinning/casting artificial lures (48%), but never fly fishes (59%), never trolls with artificial lures (65%) and never fishes with artificially scented baits, like Power Bait (45%). Anglers who purchased a trout permit in 2002 spent on average about 18 days fishing for trout with the most time spent fishing the Lake Cumberland tailwater (38%) and lakes and reservoirs (26%)(Table 1). Delayed harvest streams (5%) and brook trout streams (4%) were the least utilized. The mean time spent fishing for species other than trout was 60% of the total, even though a majority of respondents (36%) chose trout as the species they like to fish for most. When asked about their recent trout permit purchasing habits, a majority of respondents appeared to be faithful purchasers. Seventy one percent reported purchasing a trout permit in 2000, while 78% reported buying a permit in 2001. When analyzed together, 65% of anglers bought a permit in both years, 17% bought a permit in either 2000 or 2001 and 19% did not buy a permit in either year. Anyone who did not buy a trout permit in both 2000 and 2001 were asked to respond to two questions: 1) the most important reason why they didn't purchase a trout permit both years, and 2) their motivation in deciding to buy a trout permit in 2002. A large majority (44%) reported they didn't purchase a trout permit in 2000 or 2001 because they just started trout fishing. The next most important reason, cited by 29% of respondents, was they didn't have enough time. The permit being too expensive (4%) or trout fishing in general being too expensive (1%) as a reason for not buying a permit ranked very low. The reasons respondents gave most for deciding to buy a trout permit was because they had just started trout fishing in 2002 (28%) and because someone asked them to go trout fishing (28%).

### *Trout Fishing Locations*

By far, the number one trout fishing location in Kentucky is the Lake Cumberland tailwater with 47% of respondents saying they had fished for trout there in 2002. Other popular tailwaters include Cave Run

Lake (9%) and Laurel River Lake (8%). The most popular reservoir trout fisheries were Laurel River Lake (19%) with Wood Creek Lake and Paintsville Lake (both 5%) a distant second. Popular Daniel Boone National Forest streams were Rock Creek (9%), East Fork Indian (5%), and Cane Creek (4%). All three of these streams are delayed harvest streams (these streams are now known as "seasonal catch and release streams" in the Kentucky Sport Fishing and Boating Guide but the former terminology is maintained in this report). When asked if they had fished each of delayed harvest streams during the catch and release period, 8% reported fishing Rock Creek, 5% fished Otter Creek, and 4% fished both Cane Creek and East Fork Indian Creek. Bark Camp Creek was the other delayed harvest stream and less than 3% reported fishing there. Forty eight percent of anglers reported their fishing success on delayed harvest streams as fair while 27% rated their success as good or very good. Other trout streams that were most utilized were Hatchery Creek and Trammel Fork (both 4%).

#### *General Opinions*

Questions were asked to gain angler opinion on various regulations pertaining to trout fishing. A majority of trout anglers (67%) were not opposed to the current statewide department regulation of requiring the purchase of a trout permit only when the angler intends to harvest trout. Only 28% were somewhat or strongly opposed to the idea of trout fishing without a trout permit when the angler intends to catch and release. Respondents overwhelmingly (61%) preferred to maintain the current statewide rainbow trout creel limit at 8 fish. A majority of respondents (48%) were somewhat or strongly opposed to the practice of chumming while only 25% were supportive of the practice. Anglers were provided with a statement that expressed disapproval of the practice of culling and then asked their feelings toward the statement. An overwhelmingly majority (73%) was supportive of the statement, indicating there is not a lot of support for culling of trout. Anglers also expressed continued support (50%) for the current KDFWR policy of publicizing the time and date of trout stockings. Anglers showed a high degree of satisfaction with the trout program administered by the Fisheries Division, 80% of respondents were very or somewhat satisfied while only 6% expressed dissatisfaction.

#### *Lake Cumberland Tailwater*

A series of questions were asked that pertain specifically to the Lake Cumberland tailwater and were to be answered only by anglers who identified themselves as having fished the tailwater in the last 3 years. Fifty three percent of respondents answered that they had fished the tailwater in the previous 3 years. The emphasis of this series of questions was to determine angler's feelings regarding size and creel limit regulations on the tailwater. There was some concern that anglers were uninformed about some facts that if known might affect their response, and as a result, anglers were first asked a question and then asked the exact question again with some additional information as part of the question. Results of these questions indicated some striking changes in opinion once more information was provided. For example, anglers were first asked which rainbow trout size limit they preferred. Thirty eight percent preferred no minimum size limit. Anglers were then informed that fishing pressure has doubled over the last 7 years on the Lake Cumberland tailwater, that harvest of rainbow trout has more than tripled, and that hatchery limitations prevent increasing the stocking rate of rainbow trout. After being informed, support was shifted from the no size limit to other more restrictive size limit responses, with the 15 in. minimum size limit being the most popular (33%). In a similar fashion, anglers were asked their rainbow trout creel limit preference. At first, there was greatest support for an 8 rainbow trout creel limit (46%). After being informed, support for the 8 trout creel limit declined to 27% and the 4, 5, and 6 creel limit responses all increased, with 6 rainbow trout creel limit receiving the greatest support (34%). Anglers were also asked their opinion about a regulation making the Lake Cumberland tailwater "designated trout water" where anyone fishing there would be required to possess a trout permit, whether they were harvesting trout or not. There was overwhelming support for this regulation with 73% either somewhat or strongly in favor. Anglers were much more satisfied with the fishing for rainbow trout in the Lake Cumberland tailwater (85%) than the fishing for brown trout (59%).

## Discussion

Every attempt was made to minimize bias and maximize accuracy in the current survey. Low sampling error (or high precision) was obtained because of the high percentage of usable questionnaires returned during this survey. Coverage error was a minor factor as the sample was randomly drawn from the entire population of trout permit purchasers. Since a trout permit is included with the senior/disabled license and anglers under 16 aren't required to have any type of license, the sample population did not include these two potential trout angling groups. Measurement error is more difficult to control, but steps were taken to reduce this source of error by substantial staff review of the questionnaire and the survey instrument and then conducting pretesting before mailing the survey to the sample population. The fourth source of error in any survey is nonresponse error. The response rate of 64% is reasonable for a survey of this type (Pollock et al. 1994) and exceeded expectations; this also far exceeded the 20% response rate obtained in last mail survey conducted by the Fisheries Division in 1982 (Kinman and Hoyt 1984). The great decrease in nonresponse rate was likely due to the multiple contact methods employed in the current survey. Demographic data is commonly used to check for nonresponse population differences as well as follow-up telephone surveys to check nonresponse error. Since this data was not collected in the current survey, assumptions were made that the opinions of the respondents did not differ from the opinions of the nonrespondents.

It is apparent that Kentucky anglers who purchase trout permits are generally not trout specialists. Only 36% of respondents identified trout as the fish species they prefer to fish for the most but an average of 60% of their fishing days were spent targeting species other than trout. One reason for this lack of specialty may be due to the great variety of fishing options in Kentucky and the relative limited amount of trout fishing opportunities. However it is noteworthy that 32% of respondents identified themselves as beginners, indicating that trout fishing is growing in Kentucky and more effort should be made to publicize existing trout fishing opportunities in the state. The delayed harvest streams program is a relatively new program that so far appears under utilized but anglers are not reporting much fishing success during the special season. This program may need more publicity and management changes to increase angler utilization and success rates.

Considering the high number of novice trout anglers in Kentucky, it would appear that experienced anglers are regular trout permit purchasers. If an angler wasn't new to trout fishing then the most important reason why they didn't buy a trout permit was time constraints. Not having enough free time is a commonly reported reason for anglers not fishing more often (Duda et al. 1998). It is interesting to note that of respondents who weren't regular trout permit purchasers, 28% gave the answer "Someone asked me to go trout fishing in 2002" as their reason for purchasing a trout permit. This raises the question whether some type of mentor program or other way of matching non-trout anglers with more experienced trout anglers wouldn't lead to a greater number of faithful trout permit purchasers.

Results from the current survey indicate that there is generally broad support for the existing regulations and policies pertaining to trout fishing (requiring a trout permit only when harvesting, the publicizing of trout stockings, and statewide 8 trout creel limit). In the case of the support for publicizing trout stockings, this is in sharp contrast with results from the previous angler survey in 1982, when 61% of respondents were in opposition to the policy. However, it does appear that there is also support for instituting some new regulations on various issues. The practice of chumming a fishing area and the culling of trout are both issues that were not popular with respondents and so could be issues considered for regulation.

The section of the survey pertaining to the Lake Cumberland tailwater was especially important because recent creel survey results had indicated that some management changes were necessary to maintain the quality of fishing. Results showed strong support on three different issues: 1) imposing some sort of size limit on rainbow trout, 2) reducing the rainbow trout creel limit and 3) designating the Lake Cumberland tailwater as trout waters which would require all users to possess the trout permit. All these changes in trout regulations on the Lake Cumberland tailwater have already been implemented since the completion of this survey. Anglers showed more satisfaction with the rainbow trout fishing in the Lake Cumberland tailwater than the brown trout fishing, due in part to the fact that the harvest-oriented segment of the population showed less satisfaction with brown trout, likely due to the 20 in. minimum size

limit / 1 fish creel limit on brown trout. There was great satisfaction with the Fisheries Division in regard to the trout program in general.

This report is not meant to be the definitive summary of results from this survey. It is hoped that this data and the infinite ways to cross reference responses will serve as a reference to answer future questions regarding trout management in Kentucky.

### **Recommendations**

1. Because of the apparent high number of beginner trout anglers and general lack of specialization, programs should be developed for new trout anglers and efforts undertaken to publicize trout fishing opportunities in Kentucky.
2. Continue to publicize and expand the delayed harvest program (seasonable catch and release). Attempts should be made to conduct a creel survey on these streams and determine why angler satisfaction is low.
3. Create a mentor program or some way of matching beginner trout anglers with experienced anglers.
4. Based on negative angler opinion concerning two issues, chumming trout fishing areas and culling trout, a regulation should be considered addressing these issues.
5. This trout survey data should serve as a continual reference for Fisheries Division staff in making future trout management decisions, especially by contacting the data administrator and investigating whether the possibility of cross referencing questions may be beneficial.

### **Acknowledgements**

I am grateful for the respondents to this survey that provided their opinions to help shape future trout management decisions. I acknowledge the multitude of KDFWR staff who assisted in refining the survey questions, the survey instrument, and then stuffing thousands of envelopes on two different occasions. I especially thank Don Bunnell for developing the layout of the survey questionnaire, Jason Russell for his invaluable assistance throughout the survey, including coordinating the mailings and Amy Glass for her willingness to input survey returns and manage the computer database. I am appreciative of Gerry Buynak for his comments improving this manuscript. Partial funding was provided by the Sport Fish Restoration Act (Dingell-Johnson, Wallop-Breaux), Statewide Fisheries Research Project F-40.

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Table 1. Mean number of days trout permit purchasers spent fishing for trout at 6 water body categories in Kentucky in 2002 and mean number of days spent fishing for species other than trout.

Body of Water	Mean fishing days for trout	total trout fishing days	Mean percentage of total fishing days
Lakes and reservoirs	4.6	26	9
Lake Cumberland tailwater from Wolf Creek	5.8	38	15
Dam downstream to the KY-TN state line	2.8	14	6
Other tailwater trout fisheries below dams	1.1	5	2
Delayed harvest streams	0.9	4	2
Brook trout streams	2.8	14	6
Other trout streams			
Total	17.9	100	
trout	31.0	60	
Mean total number of days spent fishing	48.8		



ERNIE FLETCHER  
GOVERNOR

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www.kentucky.gov

W. JAMES HOST  
SECRETARY, COMMERCE CABINET

C. TOM BENNETT  
COMMISSIONER

Dear Trout Angler,

Within the next few days, you will be receiving a request to complete a brief questionnaire for an important research project being conducted by the Fisheries Division of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

The survey is being conducted to gauge trout angler fishing habits and opinions in order to assist us when making decisions about the direction of trout management in Kentucky.

Thank you for your time and consideration. It's only with the generous help of people like you that our research can be successful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David P. Dreves".

David P. Dreves  
Fisheries Research Biologist

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Figure 1. First letter sent to trout surveys recipients notifying them of pending mail out of survey.



ERNIE FLETCHER  
GOVERNOR

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W. JAMES HOST  
SECRETARY, COMMERCE CABINET

C. TOM BENNETT  
COMMISSIONER

March 28, 2003

John Smith  
1234 Oak St.  
Ludlow, KY 41016

One of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources responsibilities is the management of trout resources throughout the state. In order to better serve you, our constituents, I am writing to request your help in a study of trout anglers. This study is an effort to gauge trout angler fishing habits, attitudes and opinions.

You are one of a small number being asked to provide their opinions regarding trout fishing in Kentucky. We are contacting a random sample of resident anglers who purchased a trout permit in 2002. In order for the results to be truly representative of all persons fishing for trout, it is important that each questionnaire be completed and returned in the envelope provided.

You may be assured of complete confidentiality. The questionnaire has been stamped with an identification number for mailing purposes only. This number allows us to check your name off our mailing list when your questionnaire is returned. Your name will never be placed on the questionnaire itself.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have about this study. My toll free number is 1-800-858-1549 ext. 363 or I can be reached by email at the address below.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David P. Dreves".

David P. Dreves  
Fisheries Research Biologist  
Dave.Dreves@mail.state.ky.us

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Figure 2. Cover letter included with the initial mailing of the trout angler attitude survey.

Last week, a questionnaire seeking your opinions about trout fishing in Kentucky was mailed to you. Your name was drawn randomly from a list of all resident trout permit purchasers.

If you have already completed and returned the questionnaire to us, please accept our sincere thanks. If not, please do so today. We are especially grateful for your help because your response helps determine the future direction of the trout management program in Kentucky.

If you did not receive a questionnaire, or if it was misplaced, please call us at 1-800-858-1549 ext. 363 and we will get another one in the mail to you today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David P. Dreves", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

David P. Dreves  
Fisheries Research Biologist  
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources  
1 Game Farm Road  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Figure 3. Thank you / reminder postcard sent to 2003 trout survey recipients one week following first mail out of survey.



ERNE FLETCHER  
GOVERNOR

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W. JAMES HOST  
SECRETARY, COMMERCE CABINET

C. TOM BENNETT  
COMMISSIONER

April 21, 2003

John Smith  
1234 Oak St.  
Ludlow, KY 41016

About three weeks ago, we wrote to you seeking your opinions regarding trout fishing in Kentucky. As of today, we have not received your completed questionnaire. We realize that you may not have had time to complete it. However, we would genuinely appreciate hearing from you.

The study is being conducted so that anglers like you can affect the direction of trout management in Kentucky. We are writing to you again because the study's usefulness depends on our receiving a questionnaire from each respondent. Your name was drawn through a scientific sampling process in which every person who purchased a trout permit in 2002 had an equal chance of being selected. In order for information from the study to be truly representative, it is essential that each person in the sample return their questionnaire.

In the event that your questionnaire has been misplaced, a replacement is enclosed, along with a postage paid envelope. We would be happy to answer any questions you have about the study. Please contact me at 1-800-858-1549 or by email at the address below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David P. Dreves".

David P. Dreves  
Fisheries Research Biologist  
Dave.Dreves@mail.state.ky.us

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Figure 4. Cover letter included with the second follow-up mailing of the trout survey to previous non-respondents.

## Trout Angler Attitude Survey Timeline

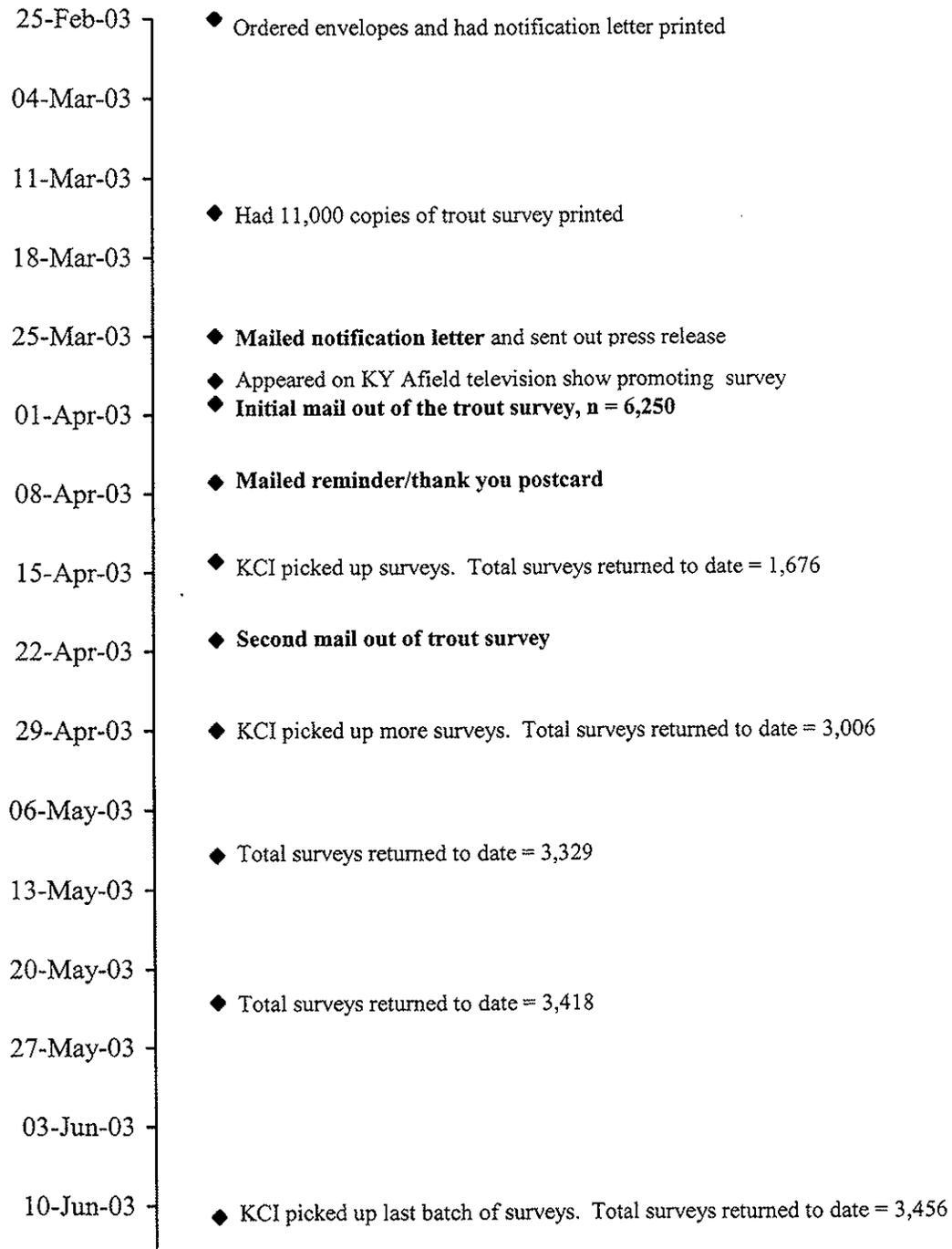


Figure 5. Timeline for the implementation of the 2003 trout angler attitude survey. Mailings are in bold type.

## Frequency of Completed Survey Returns

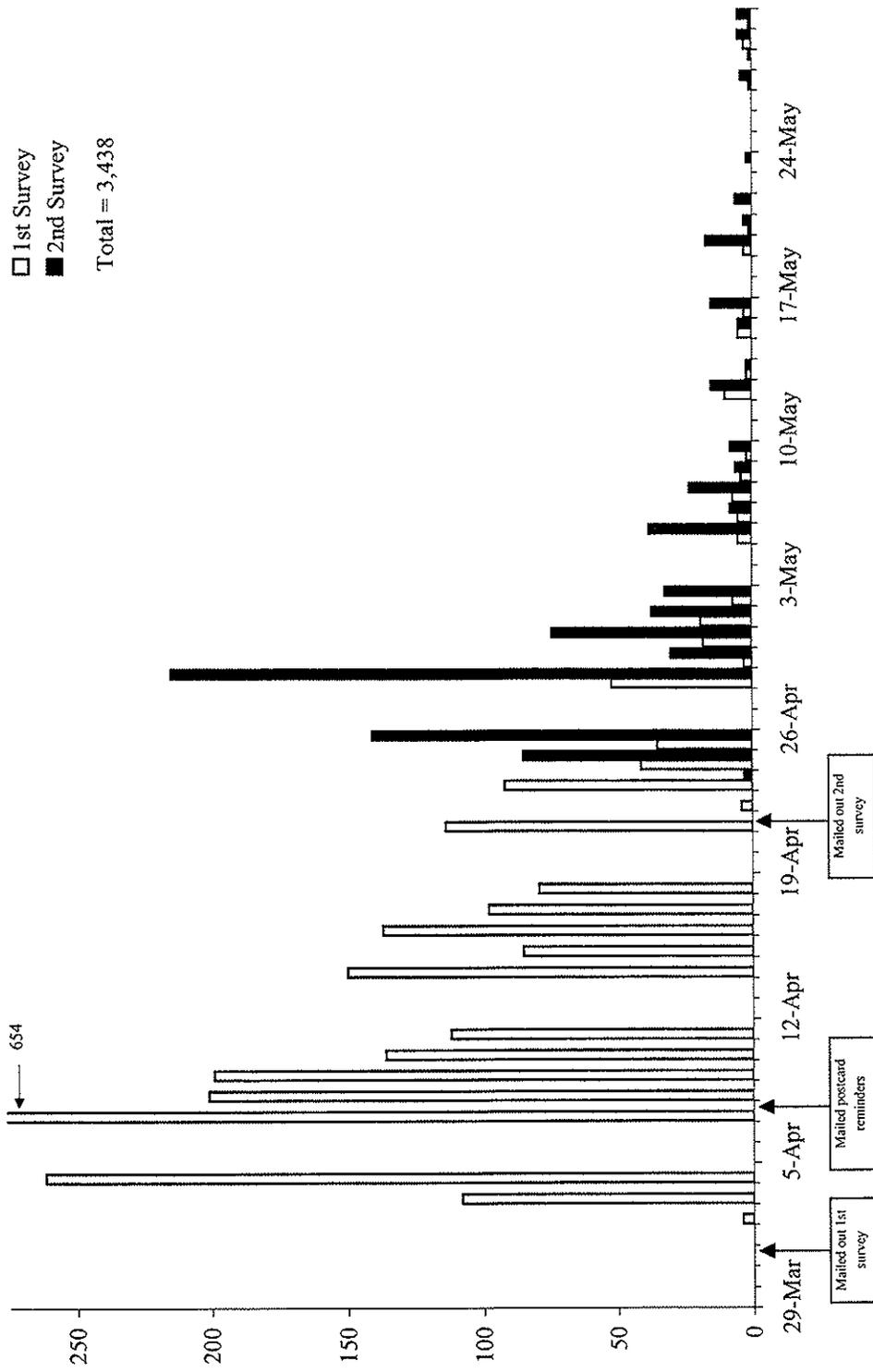


Figure 6. Frequency by date of the number of completed trout surveys returned for the 2003 trout angler attitude survey through May 30, 2003. Arrows indicate contact through a mailing.

# **APPENDIX A**

# Kentucky Trout Fishing Attitudes and Opinions



## 2003 Trout Angler Survey



Artwork Provided courtesy  
of Duane Raver/USFWS  
and Rick Hill/KDFWR



Please return your completed questionnaire  
in the enclosed envelope to:

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources



#1 Game Farm Road Frankfort, KY 40601

- It is essential that everyone who receives a questionnaire, fills it out and returns it to us. We need to hear from you even if you don't fish for trout very much or feel like you are not that knowledgeable, or even if trout fishing is not that important to you. We want your opinion.

- It is important that this survey is filled out only by the person to whom it was addressed. This will ensure that trout anglers are most accurately represented.

- Please do not write your name on the questionnaire because we want to guarantee your anonymity. An identification number has been stamped on the back that will only be used to check your name off our list once your survey has been returned.

- Please return the questionnaire in the postage paid envelope provided.

**Some Statistics**

- 3,490 completed surveys were returned from the initial mailing list of 6,250 names.

- This represents an effective rate of return of 64.0% (after removal of bad addresses and surveys returned uncompleted).

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey**

Your contribution to this effort is very much appreciated. Your responses to this survey will help guide us in our trout management decisions for years to come. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources welcomes any other comments you may have about our trout program or trout fishing in Kentucky.

**COMMENTS**

*43.0% of respondents wrote some comment; the vast majority were favorable!*

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Please return your completed questionnaire in the postage-paid envelope provided to:  
**Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources**  
**# 1 Game Farm Road**  
**Frankfort, KY 40601**

Results of this survey will be made available after July 2003 at any of our fisheries district offices or on the KDFWR website at ([www.kdflwr.state.ky.us](http://www.kdflwr.state.ky.us)). If you have questions regarding this survey, please contact Dave Dreves at the above address, by phone at 1-800-858-1549 or via email at [dave.dreves@mail.state.ky.us](mailto:dave.dreves@mail.state.ky.us)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE**

1. Check the box which best describes you as a trout fisherman.

- 32.0%  Beginner  
 62.8%  Experienced  
 4.9%  Expert  
 0.3%  Professional guide

2. Check the method of fishing for trout that you use most often.

- 15.3%  Fly fishing  
 28.4%  Spinning/casting artificial lures  
 3.0%  Trolling artificial lures  
 9.2%  Fishing with artificially scented baits (ex. Power Bait®)  
 44.1%  Fishing with natural baits (minnows, worms, corn, cheese)

3. Check the box indicating how frequently you used each of the following methods when fishing for trout last year.

- |  | Never                          | Sometimes                      | Most of the time               | Always                         |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a) Fly fishing   | <input type="checkbox"/> 59.3% | <input type="checkbox"/> 25.7% | <input type="checkbox"/> 7.3%  | <input type="checkbox"/> 7.7%  |
| b) Spinning/casting artificial lures                         | <input type="checkbox"/> 16.2% | <input type="checkbox"/> 48.4% | <input type="checkbox"/> 26.6% | <input type="checkbox"/> 8.8%  |
| c) Trolling artificial lures                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65.1% | <input type="checkbox"/> 28.9% | <input type="checkbox"/> 4.9%  | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.1%  |
| d) Fishing with artificially scented baits (ex. Power Bait®) | <input type="checkbox"/> 45.4% | <input type="checkbox"/> 36.9% | <input type="checkbox"/> 13.9% | <input type="checkbox"/> 3.8%  |
| e) Fishing with natural baits (minnows, worms, corn, cheese) | <input type="checkbox"/> 17.7% | <input type="checkbox"/> 31.8% | <input type="checkbox"/> 33.8% | <input type="checkbox"/> 16.8% |

4. About how many different days did you fish for species other than trout in 2002?

Range = 0-350 Mean = 31.0 Days

5. About how many different days did you fish for trout at each of the following waters in 2002?

- a) Lakes and reservoirs Range = 0-125 Mean = 4.6 Days  
 b) Lake Cumberland tailwater from Wolf Creek Dam Range = 0-200 Mean = 5.8  
 downstream to the KY-TN state line Range = 0-200 Mean = 2.8 Days  
 c) Other tailwater trout fisheries below dams \_\_\_\_\_ Days  
 d) Delayed harvest streams Range = 0-108 Mean = 1.1 Days  
 e) Brook trout streams Range = 0-220 Mean = 0.9 Days  
 f) Other trout streams Range = 0-100 Mean = 2.8 Days

6. Which one of the following sport fish groups or species do you prefer to fish for the most? (Check only one)

- Trout 35.8%  
 Black bass 19.3%  
 Crappie 15.3%  
 Sunfish 4.5%  
 Walleye 4.1%  
 Striped bass or hybrid striped bass 7.0%  
 Catfish 8.6%  
 Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_ 5.4%  
 Muskie, Smallmouth bass, Blucgill





15. Currently, the KY Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources does not require trout anglers to purchase a trout permit unless they intend to harvest trout. Check the response indicating your feelings regarding this policy?

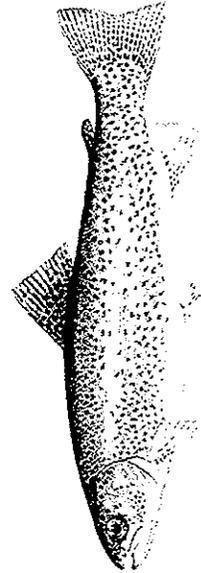
- 36.2% Strongly Support the Policy  
 13.7% Somewhat Support the Policy  
 17.1% Neutral  
 12.4% Somewhat Oppose the Policy  
 15.4% Strongly Oppose the Policy  
 5.3% No Opinion

16. What length, to the nearest inch, do you consider quality size for each of the following species of trout?

	Range = 0-30	25th percentile = 12.0
Brown Trout	Mean = 14.6	50th percentile = 15.0
	Range = 0-30	75th percentile = 18.0
Rainbow Trout	Mean = 12.9	25th percentile = 12.0
		50th percentile = 12.0
		75th percentile = 15.0

17. What length, to the nearest inch, do you consider trophy size for each of the following species of trout?

	Range = 0-50	25th percentile = 18.0
Brown Trout	Mean = 21.1	50th percentile = 20.0
	Range = 0-60	75th percentile = 24.0
Rainbow Trout	Mean = 19.9	25th percentile = 18.0
		50th percentile = 20.0
		75th percentile = 22.0

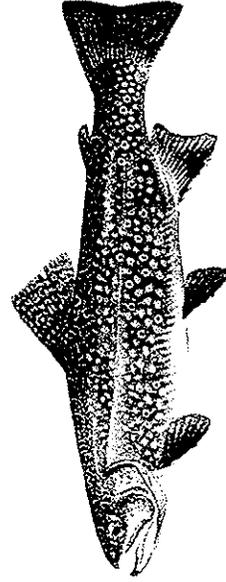


18. The Fisheries Division is considering reducing the rainbow trout statewide daily creel limit. Currently, the creel limit is 8 rainbow trout. To what extent would you support or oppose each of the following statewide daily creel limits?

- |                    |                                |                                |                                |                                |                                |                               |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                    | Strongly Support               | Somewhat Support               | Neutral                        | Somewhat Oppose                | Strongly Oppose                | No Opinion                    |
| a) 8 rainbow trout | <input type="checkbox"/> 54.6% | <input type="checkbox"/> 11.7% | <input type="checkbox"/> 11.9% | <input type="checkbox"/> 7.7%  | <input type="checkbox"/> 10.9% | <input type="checkbox"/> 3.1% |
| b) 6 rainbow trout | <input type="checkbox"/> 16.9% | <input type="checkbox"/> 25.8% | <input type="checkbox"/> 16.0% | <input type="checkbox"/> 12.9% | <input type="checkbox"/> 24.0% | <input type="checkbox"/> 4.4% |
| c) 5 rainbow trout | <input type="checkbox"/> 8.8%  | <input type="checkbox"/> 11.2% | <input type="checkbox"/> 17.2% | <input type="checkbox"/> 20.0% | <input type="checkbox"/> 37.9% | <input type="checkbox"/> 4.9% |
| d) 4 rainbow trout | <input type="checkbox"/> 12.3% | <input type="checkbox"/> 5.6%  | <input type="checkbox"/> 12.2% | <input type="checkbox"/> 14.7% | <input type="checkbox"/> 50.0% | <input type="checkbox"/> 5.2% |

19. Check the statewide daily creel limit for rainbow trout you prefer.

- |                 |                                |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 8 rainbow trout | <input type="checkbox"/> 60.9% |
| 6 rainbow trout | <input type="checkbox"/> 20.1% |
| 5 rainbow trout | <input type="checkbox"/> 8.0%  |
| 4 rainbow trout | <input type="checkbox"/> 11.0% |



20. Chumming is a practice of spreading bait (ex. corn) or other natural parts in the water around a fishing area for the purpose of attracting trout to be caught by angling. Check the response indicating to what extent you support or oppose the practice of chumming for trout.

- 11.8% Strongly Support this Practice
- 12.7% Somewhat Support this Practice
- 23.5% Neutral
- 15.1% Somewhat Oppose this Practice
- 32.6% Strongly Oppose this Practice
- 4.3% No Opinion

21. Check the response indicating your feelings toward the following statements. "Once caught, trout should have to be immediately released or counted towards the daily limit. It should be illegal to cull trout from the creel or livewell (replace smaller trout with larger trout)."

- 57.2% Strongly Support Statements
- 16.0% Somewhat Support Statements
- 10.4% Neutral
- 7.0% Somewhat Oppose Statements
- 7.3% Strongly Oppose Statements
- 2.1% No Opinion

22. The time and date of trout stockings are currently announced several weeks in advance by the Fisheries Division of KY Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. To what extent do you support or oppose this policy?

- 33.4% Strongly Support Policy
- 16.1% Somewhat Support Policy
- 18.0% Neutral
- 13.6% Somewhat Oppose Policy
- 15.9% Strongly Oppose Policy
- 3.0% No Opinion

23. Check the response indicating your level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the trout program administered by the Fisheries Division of the KY Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

- 44.9% Very Satisfied
- 34.7% Somewhat Satisfied
- 11.4% Neutral
- 4.9% Somewhat Dissatisfied
- 1.2% Very Dissatisfied
- 2.9% No Opinion

24. Are you a member of any of the following organized trout groups?

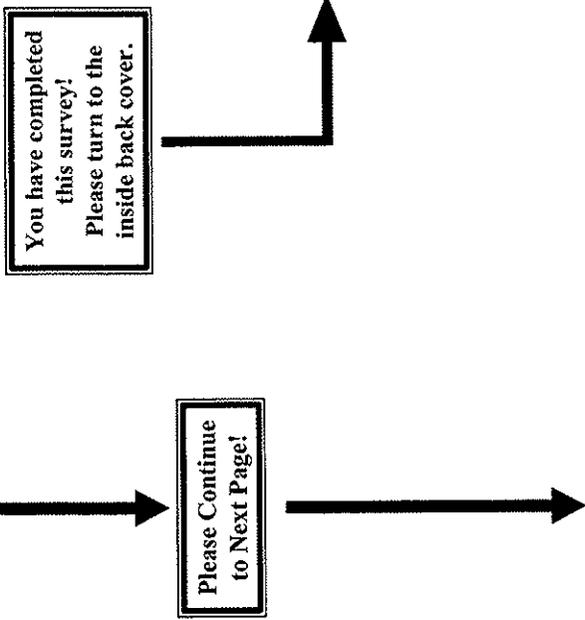
- |   | Yes                           | No                             |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Trout Unlimited                             | <input type="checkbox"/> 5.7% | <input type="checkbox"/> 94.3% |
| Federation of Fly Fishers - Associated Club | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.2% | <input type="checkbox"/> 98.8% |
| Other Trout Club _____                      | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.4% | <input type="checkbox"/> 98.6% |

25. In what Kentucky county is your permanent address?

- \_\_\_\_\_ County
- 1) Jefferson - 9.7%
  - 2) Fayette - 6.5%
  - 3) Pulaski - 3.5%
  - 4) Kenton - 3.2%
  - 5) Laurel - 2.9%

26. Did you fish the Lake Cumberland tailwater from Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the KY-TN state line in any of the last 3 years?

Yes  53.3%      No  46.7%



## Lake Cumberland Tailwater Questions

27. What method of access do you primarily use to fish the Lake Cumberland tailwater from Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the KY-TN state line for trout? (Check one)

- Bank fishing  27.4%
- Wade fishing  16.8%
- Boat fishing  31.6%
- Both wading and boat fishing  23.3%

28. The Fisheries Division is considering changing size limit regulations on rainbow trout in the Lake Cumberland tailwater from Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the KY-TN state line. Rainbow trout in the tailwater are currently managed with a no size limit regulation. To what extent would you support or oppose each of the following size limit regulations? A protective slot limit means all trout within that range must be released.

- a) No minimum size limit
- b) 15-20 inch protective slot limit
- c) 13-18 inch protective slot limit
- d) 16-22 inch protective slot limit
- e) 15 inch minimum size limit

Strongly Support      Somewhat Support      Neutral      Somewhat Oppose      Strongly Oppose      No Opinion

<input type="checkbox"/>					
29.4%	13.5%	12.4%	12.8%	27.9%	3.1%
<input type="checkbox"/>					
13.1%	20.5%	17.1%	17.5%	25.4%	5.3%
<input type="checkbox"/>					
16.1%	21.9%	17.1%	14.7%	23.9%	5.2%
<input type="checkbox"/>					
9.2%	14.6%	19.3%	18.9%	30.7%	6.2%
<input type="checkbox"/>					
22.1%	18.0%	14.9%	12.7%	26.7%	4.6%

29. Check the size limit on rainbow trout you prefer for the Lake Cumberland tailwater from Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the KY-TN state line.

- 37.7% No minimum size limit
- 12.5% 15-20 inch protective slot limit
- 18.7% 13-18 inch protective slot limit
- 7.3% 16-22 inch protective slot limit
- 22.9% 15 inch minimum size limit

30. If you were informed that 1) fishing pressure on the Lake Cumberland tailwater from Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the KY-TN state line has doubled over the last 7 years, 2) harvest of rainbow trout has more than tripled, and 3) hatchery limitations prevent increasing the stocking rate of rainbow trout in the Lake Cumberland tailwater, what size limit on rainbow trout would you prefer?

- 18.1% No minimum size limit
- 14.7% 15-20 inch protective slot limit
- 23.2% 13-18 inch protective slot limit
- 10.0% 16-22 inch protective slot limit
- 33.0% 15 inch minimum size limit

31. The Fisheries Division is also considering changing creel limit regulations on rainbow trout in the Lake Cumberland tailwater from Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the KY-TN state line. Rainbow trout in the tailwater are currently managed with a 8 fish creel limit. To what extent would you favor or oppose each of the following creel limit regulations?

- |                    |                                |                                |                                |                                |                                |                               |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                    | Strongly Support               | Somewhat Support               | Neutral                        | Somewhat Oppose                | Strongly Oppose                | No Opinion                    |
| a) 8 rainbow trout | <input type="checkbox"/> 43.2% | <input type="checkbox"/> 14.6% | <input type="checkbox"/> 10.9% | <input type="checkbox"/> 10.3% | <input type="checkbox"/> 17.9% | <input type="checkbox"/> 1.9% |
| b) 6 rainbow trout | <input type="checkbox"/> 19.1% | <input type="checkbox"/> 32.2% | <input type="checkbox"/> 12.7% | <input type="checkbox"/> 13.0% | <input type="checkbox"/> 19.1% | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.8% |
| c) 5 rainbow trout | <input type="checkbox"/> 9.8%  | <input type="checkbox"/> 18.7% | <input type="checkbox"/> 18.4% | <input type="checkbox"/> 19.9% | <input type="checkbox"/> 28.8% | <input type="checkbox"/> 3.4% |
| d) 4 rainbow trout | <input type="checkbox"/> 18.2% | <input type="checkbox"/> 8.5%  | <input type="checkbox"/> 12.9% | <input type="checkbox"/> 17.2% | <input type="checkbox"/> 38.5% | <input type="checkbox"/> 3.5% |

32. Check the creel limit on rainbow trout you prefer for the Lake Cumberland tailwater from Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the KY-TN state line.

- |                                |                 |                                |                 |                                |                 |                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 45.7% | 8 rainbow trout | <input type="checkbox"/> 25.1% | 6 rainbow trout | <input type="checkbox"/> 10.5% | 5 rainbow trout | <input type="checkbox"/> 17.6% | 4 rainbow trout |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|

33. If you were informed that 1) fishing pressure on the Lake Cumberland tailwater from Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the KY-TN state line has doubled over the last 7 years, 2) harvest of rainbow trout has more than tripled, and 3) hatchery limitations prevent increasing the stocking rate of rainbow trout in the Lake Cumberland tailwater, what creel limit on rainbow trout would you prefer?

8 rainbow trout	6 rainbow trout	5 rainbow trout	4 rainbow trout
<input type="checkbox"/> 27.0%	<input type="checkbox"/> 33.9%	<input type="checkbox"/> 15.4%	<input type="checkbox"/> 22.6%

34. To what extent would you favor or oppose a regulation making the Lake Cumberland tailwater from Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the KY-TN state line a "designated trout water"? This regulation change would mean that anyone fishing the Cumberland River from Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the Kentucky-Tennessee state line would be required to purchase a trout permit whether they intended to keep trout or not.

<input type="checkbox"/> 60.8%	Strongly Support Regulation
<input type="checkbox"/> 12.6%	Somewhat Support Regulation
<input type="checkbox"/> 7.5%	Neutral
<input type="checkbox"/> 5.5%	Somewhat Oppose Regulation
<input type="checkbox"/> 11.8%	Strongly Oppose Regulation
<input type="checkbox"/> 0.8%	No Opinion

35. Please indicate your level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with fishing for the following species in the Lake Cumberland tailwater from Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the KY-TN state line.

Brown trout	Rainbow trout
<input type="checkbox"/> 28.7%	<input type="checkbox"/> 49.9%
<input type="checkbox"/> 30.1%	<input type="checkbox"/> 34.8%
<input type="checkbox"/> 16.1%	<input type="checkbox"/> 6.4%
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.3%	<input type="checkbox"/> 4.8%
<input type="checkbox"/> 5.0%	<input type="checkbox"/> 1.1%
<input type="checkbox"/> 5.8%	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.1%
	Very Satisfied
	Somewhat Satisfied
	Neutral
	Somewhat Dissatisfied
	Very Dissatisfied
	No Opinion



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