



Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources
Committee Meetings

February 8, 2019
1 Sportsman's Lane
Frankfort, KY

Meeting Schedule

- I. Administration, Education & Policy Committee
- II. Fisheries Committee
- III. Public Relations Committee
- IV. Wildlife Committee

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission
Administration, Education and Policy Committee Meeting
February 8, 2019
1 Sportsman's Lane
Frankfort, KY

AGENDA

Committee Members: Chairman Dr. Karl Clinard, Jeff Eaton, Paul Horn
and Brian Fisher

- | | | |
|-------|------------------------------|--|
| I. | Call to Order
and Welcome | Chairman Clinard |
| II. | Pledge of Allegiance | |
| III. | Old Business | |
| IV. | Information Item: | Review of Monthly Financials
Attachment 1 |
| V. | Information Item: | Recruit Class Update |
| VI. | Information Item: | Presentation of R3 Strategic Plan |
| VII. | Action Item: | Proposed Changes to 301 KAR 2:185,
Hunter Education
Attachment 2 |
| VIII. | New Business | |
| IX. | Adjourn | |



Attachment 2: Proposed Changes to Hunter Education Requirement 2019

Procedural Change that is already starting:

The NRA has developed a completely free, online hunter education course that meets the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) requirements. We are adding their free course to our existing online course options.

Proposed Regulatory Changes:

- Add a subsection to 301 KAR 2:185 Section 4 that will allow a student to receive their Hunter Education Certification without having to complete an "in-person" course or live fire exercise.
- Remove or edit the "license exempt" portion of Section 2. This will make it a requirement that all hunters in Kentucky, born after January 1st 1975, pass a hunter education course before hunting.
- Some background information for proposal #1:

Our culture is one that appreciates the convenience that the internet provides. Activities that once required individuals to travel can now be done from the comfort of the home. Even groceries can now be delivered to your door. A person can even earn an entire degree online without having to leave their house.

Kentucky is a forerunner in a national effort to Recruit, Retain, and Reactivate hunters. (This is collectively known as the "R3" effort.) One of the primary goals of R3 is to eliminate barriers where possible and ethical to do so.

Hunting has to compete for time with a plethora of other recreational activities. We get regular complaints that the scheduled courses conflict with other events.

The in-person hunter education requirement necessitates the use of a large number of volunteers to effectively reach Kentucky's population of new hunters. Over the last 27 years, it has often proved difficult to maintain a consistent message throughout our volunteer force. An online course enables us to guarantee consistency and quality.

In the past, the only online courses available to the public had a fee. This would, obviously, create a significant barrier that we wish to avoid. The new free course eliminates that barrier.

Anyone completing an online course will, immediately, be able to print their Hunter Education Certificate. (and/or save it to their phone) This eliminates another current barrier. It can take up to 2 weeks for a participant to receive their card in the mail.



Attachment 2: Proposed Changes to Hunter Education Requirement 2019

- **Online only hunter education in other states**
 - 21 States have less restrictive hunter education requirements than Kentucky.
 - 7 States are completely online only. (No in-person classroom or range time.)
 - 8 States are online only after a certain age.
 - 2 States do not require HE after a certain age.
 - 1 State is online only for military and law enforcement.
 - 3 States have in-person exams with no range portion.
 - At least 4 states allow nonresidents to take their online only course.

State	Comments
Georgia	Completely online only and Resident of any state can take
Alabama	
Indiana	
New Mexico	
Ohio	
South Carolina	
Virginia	Resident and 12 years or older online only
Nebraska	11-15 required range day; 16-29 range day optional; 30+ not required and Resident of any state can take
Missouri	16 years or older online only
Pennsylvania	16 years or older online only
Texas	17 years or older online only and Resident of any state can take
Iowa	18 years or older online only and Resident of any state can take
Minnesota	18 years or older online only
Oregon	18 years or older online only
Wisconsin	18 years or older; HE Card holder exempt from small game license first year
Oklahoma	31 years or older do not need HE card
Arizona	Exempt at 14, both required before
Washington	Military or Peace Officers are exempt from range days
Arkansas	In-person test, no range
Rhode Island	In-person test, no range
Mississippi	In-person test, no range

- **12 states replied to our request for information.**
 - None of the states; that had data, reported a hunting accident that involved an "online only" participant.
 - All states reported support from the majority of the public.



Attachment 2: Proposed Changes to Hunter Education Requirement 2019

- All the states that had data available reported that hunting incidents either remained consistent or decreased after the switch to online only.
 - Iowa- No Change
 - Alabama- Down
 - Texas- Down
 - New Mexico- No Change
 - Ohio- No Change
 - Wisconsin- No Change
 - Virginia- Down
- 2 States reported dramatic increases in number of certified hunters after switching to online only.
- As predicted, 1 state reported huge numbers of online participants the day before deer season.
- **Items to consider for Kentucky.**
 - Liability of agency for making the switch to online only.
 - Karen checked with Will Adams, the Cabinet Attorney. The agency will have no liability issues.
 - Current Hunter Training Officers
 - I have spoken with all 5 of our current Hunter Training Officers as well as the R3 staff. They are all excited for this change and agree that it is the direction we need to go. (3 active HTOs. 1 interim HTO. 1 HTO who is currently active military.)
 - The current HTOs will become R3 Specialists. While they will still provide some, optional, in-person hunter education courses, most of their time will be devoted to advanced hunting courses and other R3 efforts.
 - Current Hunter Education Volunteers
 - I want to make it very clear: We still need volunteers. We just need them in a different capacity.
 - Just like the HTOs, our current volunteers (that wish to continue volunteering) will have their efforts redirected to R3 efforts. Will need them to teach advanced hunting courses and become mentors for hunters.
 - We already have hunter ed volunteers that have started helping with R3 events.
 - Many volunteers have also requested permission to add R3 portions to their hunter ed classes. We have had to deny those requests for fear of making the required hunter ed classes too long.
 - As with any change, this will cause us to lose volunteers. It will also help us gain new volunteers and revitalize those volunteers that wish to remain but have become stagnant.
 - "Match dollars" for volunteer hours
 - Advanced hunting courses and R3 events all qualify for federal match. We will continue to have volunteers log hours for our federal report.
 - 2017
 - Volunteers logged 9,951.25 hours.



Attachment 2: Proposed Changes to Hunter Education Requirement 2019

- Generating \$208,080.67 in match.
- 7,125 hunters were certified out of Camp. (3,777 in Camp)
- If WSFR gives 1 hour/ course, then internet courses alone will generate \$148,983.75.
- Add volunteer hours for advanced classes and assume online classes will increase our total number of classes.
- Some people still want in-person courses
 - Our current HTOs will still offer *some* in-person hunter education courses. These will be infrequent (quarterly? Every other month?) and centrally located within a region to allow for maximum attendance.
 - Special accommodations will need to be made for Amish communities.
 - Conservation Camps will continue to offer hunter ed as part of their curriculum.
 - We will still provide materials for these classes.
- **Details/ items for consideration for proposal #2:**
 - By providing a free online course and removing the live fire exercise requirement from the regulation, it is reasonable to require more people to become hunter ed certified.
 - "Grandfather in" adults and make the regulation apply to youth.
 - Make it effective March 1, 2020.
 - Make the language similar to the current hunter ed language that says:
 - A person born on or after January 1, 1975 shall carry a valid hunter education card while hunting in Kentucky.
 - "A person born on or after January 1, 2002"

Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources Commission
Fisheries Committee Meeting
February 8, 2019
1 Sportsman's Lane
Frankfort, KY

AGENDA

Committee Members: Chairman Kenny Knott, Dr. Harry Carloss, Dr. Karl Clinard, Ralph Swallows

- I. Call to Order Chairman Knott
- II. Old Business
- III. Action Item: Barren River Lake Crappie Size Limit Amendment
Attachment 1
- IV. Action Item: Middle Fork Red River Trout Regulation
Amendment
Attachment 2
- V. Action Item: Addition of Gunpowder Creek Seasonal Catch and
Release
Attachment 3
- VI. Action Item: Kentucky River WMA, Boone Tract Fishing
Regulation Amendments and Pond Naming
Attachment 4
- VII. Action Item: Special Catfish Regulation Lakes Amendments
Attachment 5
- VIII. Action Item: Lake Boundary Definition Additions
Attachment 6
- IX. Action Item: Committee Review of Proposed Kentucky River
Muskie Research Project
Attachment 7

- X. Action Item: Allow Sale of Asian Carp Harvested by Bow Fishing
Attachment 8
- XI. Action Item: Designated Shoreline Fish Cleaning Stations
Attachment 9
- XII. Action Item: Fishing Restriction Near BAFF Below Barkley Dam
Attachment 10
- XIII. New Business
- XIV. Adjourn

Attachment 1

Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources Commission Fisheries Committee Meeting February 8, 2019

Action Item: Barren River Lake Crappie Size Limit Amendment

Commissioner Knott was approached by crappie anglers at Barren River Lake, asking for an increase in the crappie size limit. Anglers feel the size limit increase will better protect the crappie population and allow for better harvest success over time. The crappie population is comprised of almost equal percentages of black and white crappie. Growth rates of white crappie are better than black crappie, with white crappie reaching 10 inches in 2-3 years and black crappie reaching 10 inches in 4-5 years. Although black crappie growth is not exceptional for this proposed size limit, white crappie growth is more than adequate. In addition, angler catch is dominated by white crappie. Winter harvest at Barren River Lake can be substantial, as the lake is drawn down from 10,000 to 5,000 acres. This regulation could help ease the impacts of increased harvest during this time. The Fisheries Division feels that, biologically, this regulation can be beneficial and proposes a 10-inch minimum size limit on crappie at Barren River Lake.

Attachment 2

Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources Commission
Fisheries Committee Meeting
February 8, 2019

Action Item: Middle Fork Red River Trout Regulation Amendment

The Middle Fork Red River is a trout stream that runs through Natural Bridge State Park in Powell and Wolfe counties. The stream is currently regulated from October through March under the seasonal catch and release program. All trout are required to be released during this time. However, the boundary for the park is only a moderate distance from the stocking locations. As a result, trout tend to migrate out of the park boundaries on to private property over time and are not available to anglers. The Fisheries Division feels that the loss of trout during the seasonal catch and release period is resulting in poor use of the stocked fish. It is recommended that the seasonal catch and release regulation be removed and revert to statewide rainbow trout regulations to allow harvest of the trout year-round within the park. Natural Bridge State Park staff have been contacted and they are in favor of this regulation change.

Attachment 3

Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources Commission
Fisheries Committee Meeting
February 8, 2019

Action Item: Addition of Gunpowder Creek Seasonal Catch and
Release

Gunpowder Creek in Boone County will be stocked with rainbow trout for the first time in April of 2019. Stockings will occur annually in April, May and October. Angler pressure on the stream could be high and to better protect those trout stocked in October, the Fisheries Division recommends seasonal catch and release regulations from October through March. All trout caught during this time must be released. Release of the trout should allow for more fishing success during the winter until trout are stocked once again in April. The fishable portion of this stream is approximately 1.5-2 miles so trout should remain available for anglers throughout the winter even with some dispersion. Statewide harvest regulations will apply outside of the catch and release season.

Attachment 4

Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources Commission
Fisheries Committee Meeting
February 8, 2019

Action Item: Kentucky River WMA, Boone Tract Fishing Regulation
Amendments and Pond Naming

When the Kentucky River WMA, Boone Tract lakes were first obtained by KDFWR, somewhat restrictive regulations were placed on the fisheries to provide protection until several years of population data could be collected. Now that we have a better idea of species numbers, sizes, growth, etc., we are able to better refine regulations on those lakes. The following regulations amendments are proposed:

1. Kinman Lake – Remove reduced channel catfish daily creel limit (4 fish) and revert back to statewide 12-inch size limit and no daily creel limit. This provides simplification of the regulation and the lake is stocked every other year with channel catfish and receives only moderate catfishing pressure.
2. 4-acre pond, 6-acre pond, and 15-acre lake – Remove reduced crappie daily creel limit (15 fish) and revert back to statewide 20 fish daily creel limit and no minimum size limit. This provides simplification of the regulation and data shows there should be no problems with the statewide creel limit.

Kerry Prather, a long-time fisheries biologist with KDFWR passed away in 2018. Kerry served with KDFWR for 31 years prior to his retirement in 2008. He was a devoted biologist and mentor to many of our current and former staff. Kerry's "on the ground" work in public education, farm pond management and promotion of our fish and wildlife resources to the general public was extraordinary. Kerry averaged 100 on-site farm pond technical guidance visits per year over a 23-year period and logged an average of 600 technical guidance phone calls annually. Kerry's love for pond management led to his authoring of three editions of "A Management Guide for Ponds and Small Lakes in Kentucky". This is one of the most requested publications printed by the Department. In addition, Kerry held multiple farm pond management seminars each year. Based on Kerry's devotion to this agency and his work involving small lakes and ponds, the Fisheries Division requests to name the 4-acre pond at Kentucky River WMA, Boone Tract, "Prather Pond".

Attachment 5

Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources Commission
Fisheries Committee Meeting
February 8, 2019

Action Item: Special Catfish Regulation Lakes Amendments

In 2018, the Commission passed a 12-inch size limit regulation for lakes regularly stocked with catfish by KDFWR. The following are amendments and additions to the list of "Special Catfish Regulation Lakes" which is incorporated by reference in the regulation:

1. Change Peabody lakes to say Muhlenberg and Ohio counties. Ohio county was mistakenly left off.
2. Replace Mauzy Lake and Morton's Lake (Higginson and Henry WMA) with "Higginson and Henry WMA lakes". There is a third, smaller lake, that is not stocked with catfish on the WMA, and the wildlife division stated it would be easier to sign the entire WMA instead of each lake individually.
3. Replace Taylorsville WMA Pond 2 with "Taylorsville Lake WMA ponds". Once again, there are several other ponds on the WMA that are not stocked with catfish. However, it would be less confusing to anglers to have all ponds on the WMA regulated the same, and it would help with signing.
4. Add Lake Pennyrite to the list of regulated lakes. More regular stockings will occur at this lake, so inclusion in the list is necessary.
5. Add Kentucky River WMA, Boone Tract 4-pond (Prather Pond) and 6-acre pond to the list of regulated lakes. Catfish stockings will begin at these waterbodies starting in 2019.

Attachment 6

Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources Commission Fisheries Committee Meeting February 8, 2019

Action Item: Lake Boundary Definition Additions

The current regulation definition of a "lake" reads "impounded waters from the dam upstream to the first riffle on the main stem river and tributary streams". This has worked fairly well for lakes across the state. However, there have been a few main tributary streams that have created enforcement difficulties due to the location of the first riffle moving depending on water levels throughout the year. For these lakes, we have further defined the upper lake boundary with a specific landmark in those tributaries. Based on recent discussions with our district biologists and law enforcement staff, the Fisheries Division would like to better define the upper lake boundaries on the following lake tributaries:

1. Cave Run Lake
 - a. Scott's Creek to the Hwy 801 culvert
 - b. Beaver Creek to the Hwy 1274 culvert
 - c. North Fork Creek to the confluence of Craney Creek
 - d. Licking River to the Hwy 772 bridge
 - e. Ramey Creek to include pool of water north of Hwy 801
2. Green River Lake
 - a. Green River to Snake Creek Boat Ramp
 - b. Robinson Creek to Hwy 76 bridge
 - c. Casey Creek to Arnolds Landing Boat Ramp
3. Rough River Lake
 - a. Rough River to Hwy 84 bridge

Attachment 7

Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources Commission
Fisheries Committee Meeting
February 8, 2019

Action Item: Committee Review of Proposed Kentucky River Muskie
Research Project

In 2016, the Streams Investigations Branch initiated a research project to evaluate the stocking of two sizes of fingerling muskellunge in two pools of the Kentucky River. During the course of this research, they saw evidence that the movement of these fish may be greater than initially thought. The decision was made to put the project on hold until they can better ascertain the post-stocking movement of muskellunge in the Kentucky River. The Fisheries Divisions proposes a new research project with two specific objectives: 1) determine dispersal of age-1 and age-2 muskellunge stocked into pools 11-13 of the Kentucky River and 2) Utilize the results of the project to develop muskellunge stocking recommendations for the entire Kentucky River.

The narrative for this research project is included in the Committee packet.

Attachment 8

Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources Commission
Fisheries Committee Meeting
February 8, 2019

Action Item: Allow Sale of Asian Carp Harvested by Bow Fishing

Fisheries has received a request from concerned anglers to allow Asian carp harvested by bow fishermen to be sold to any buyer willing to pay a bounty for the fish. Some people feel that a "bounty" on Asian carp would significantly increase fishing pressure on Asian carp. Currently, Statute 150.175 only authorizes the sale of rough fishes by commercial licensed fishermen. Fisheries believes that some increase in bow fishing may occur if bounties were allowed. If an amendment was approved by Kentucky legislators, regulations should follow that would provide protection to commercial fishers that would deter people from vandalizing commercial gear or removing fish caught in their nets. Competition of financial interests between bow and commercial fishers must be prevented as is possible.

Attachment 9

Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources Commission
Fisheries Committee Meeting
February 8, 2019

Action Item: Designated Shoreline Fish Cleaning Stations

Anglers are restricted from cleaning any fish for which a size limit or daily creel limit exists while fishing on the shoreline, on the water, or in boats (301 KAR 1:201, Section 2(9)). However, reservoirs with marinas and state parks have requested permission to construct lakeside cleaning stations. Fisheries is not opposed to delegating specific areas as potential cleaning station locations. It will be necessary that the entity providing the cleaning stations be responsible for maintaining the area in terms of cleanliness and routine offal disposal. We recommend amending 301 KAR 1:201 to allow fish cleaning stations in areas of agreement between this Department and the requesting entity and with maintenance agreements.

Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources Commission
Fisheries Committee Meeting
February 8, 2019

Action Item: Fishing Restriction Near BAFF Below Barkley Dam

Asian carp have been migrating through lock chambers into Kentucky and Barkley lakes for many years and have increased their numbers to become a major threat to tourism and fishing in those reservoirs. Kentucky is participating in an extensive research project to investigate the efficacy of using a bio-acoustical fish fence (BAFF) to deter Asian carp from moving through lock chambers of dams to access pools or reservoirs above the dams. The BAFF system has proven beneficial for deterring fish in Western U.S. and Europe. KDFWR Fisheries is working with the USGS, University of Minnesota, TWRA, USFWS and USACE to test the BAFF below Barkley Dam. The test will last at least three years, and if successful, the system could become a permanent deterrent below that dam. Since there are many areas threatened by Asian carp, a successful BAFF system would provide hope to many states that Asian carp can be controlled or significantly reduced in waters where movement through dams is significantly reduced. In Kentucky and Barkley lakes. By combining BAFF deterrents below both dams with commercial fishing and Fisheries staff removal, we believe that Asian carp numbers in the two reservoirs can be significantly reduced.

The BAFF is scheduled to be installed in the lock canal below Barkley Dam in March 2019. The acoustics and air system need to be protected from hooks that could damage them. Therefore, we need to restrict fishing within 200 feet of the BAFF system. Fisheries has hosted public meetings where the BAFF was introduced and the restrictions were discussed, and we have made public announcements. We have received no negative comments about restricting this small portion of water below the lock chamber. Because of the March start up, we will also need to pursue an emergency regulation by the start of construction.

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
Public Relations Committee
February 8, 2018
1 Sportsman's Lane
Frankfort, KY

AGENDA

Committee Members: Chairman Jeff Eaton, Kevin Bond, Kenny Knott,
Ralph Swallows

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|-------|-------------------|---|
| I. | Call to Order | Chairman Eaton |
| II. | Old Business | |
| III. | Information Item: | #Serve2Conserve Awards |
| IV. | Information Item: | Twitter Page as Newsfeed |
| V. | Information Item: | Short-form Videos |
| VI. | Information Item: | Digital Transformation Initiative |
| VII. | Action Item: | Elk Hunt Drawing Application
Process |
| VIII. | New Business | |
| IX. | Adjourn | |

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission
Wildlife Committee Meeting
February 8, 2019
1 Sportsman's Lane
Frankfort, KY

AGENDA

Committee Members: Chairman Kevin Bond, Paul Horn, Dr. Harry Carloss, Brian Fisher

- I. Call to Order Chairman Bond
- II. Old Business
- III. Action Item: Modification of 301 KAR 2:049, Small Game and
Furbearer Hunting and Trapping on Public Areas
Attachment 1
- IV. Action Item: Modification of 301 KAR 2:221, Waterfowl Seasons
and Limits
Attachment 2
- V. Action Item: Modification of 301 KAR 2:222, Waterfowl Hunting
Requirements on Public Lands
Attachment 3
- VI. Action Item: Modification of 301 KAR 2:300, Black Bear Seasons
and Requirements
Attachment 4
- VII. Action Item: Modification of 301 KAR 4:090, Buying and selling
inedible wildlife parts (title to be amended)
Attachment 5
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Adjourn

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission
Wildlife Committee Meeting
February 8, 2019

Action Item: Modification of 301 KAR 2:049, Small Game and
Furbearer Hunting and Trapping on Public Areas

Allow hunting on Clay, Green River and Yellowbank WMA's during pheasant quota hunts in areas unassociated with pheasant hunts:

Pheasant quota hunts occur on three separate Wildlife Management Areas (WMA): Clay WMA, Yellowbank WMA, and Green River WMA. Current regulations close all hunting except archery and muzzleloader deer hunting on each WMA for the 3 day Pheasant Quota Hunts. Pheasants are released on a small subset of the acreage comprising each WMA. The closure of each area in its entirety for this three day period is restricting hunting on these areas where the Pheasant Quota Hunts are not taking place. The remaining WMA could be safely opened for all other legal hunting. Each Pheasant Quota Hunt Area will be identified. The remaining area outside this boundary will be open according to each WMA's regulations.

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission
Wildlife Committee Meeting
February 8, 2019

Action Item: Modification of 301 KAR 2:221, Waterfowl Seasons and Limits

1. Establish Migratory Bird Season Dates for the 2019-20 Season
Doves

September 1 – October 26, 2019
November 28 – December 8, 2019
December 21, 2019 – January 12, 2020

Other Webless Species

Rails and Gallinules:	September 1 – November 9, 2019
Wilson's snipe:	September 18 – October 27, 2019
	November 28 – February 2, 2020
Sandhill Crane:	December 02, 2019 – January 26, 2020

Early Season Ducks

Wood duck and teal:	September 21 – 25, 2019
Teal Only:	September 26 – 29, 2019

Early Season Geese

Canada Geese:	September 16, 2019 – September 30, 2019
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Late Season Goose Seasons

Dates:	November 28, 2019 – February 15, 2020
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Youth Waterfowl Seasons

Eastern Zone:	November 2 – November 3, 2019
Western Zone:	February 1 – February 2, 2020

Snow Goose Conservation Order Season

Dates:	February 16, 2020 – March 31, 2020
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Falconry Waterfowl Season

Dates:	November 28, 2019 – February 15, 2020
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2. Establish Framework Changes for Late Season Ducks, Mergansers and Coot

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) sets frameworks for duck hunting within the Mississippi Flyway based on Adaptive Harvest Models each season. Under the liberal framework, states may set a 60-day season between the Saturday closest to September 24th and the last Sunday in January. The Mississippi Flyway Council requested that the USFWS change the late season duck liberal framework closure from the last Sunday in January to a fixed date of January 31. The USFWS approved the framework extension. The change was approved after extensive modeling efforts that showed no significant impacts on populations or the likelihood of moderate or restrictive seasons. In informal surveys, hunters support changing to a January 31 closure. Moving the date from the last Sunday in January has some consequences. (1) The season will no longer close on a fixed weekend day, with the season ending on a weekday 5 of the next 10 years. (2) Harvest in Kentucky is higher in December when compared to January. (3) Western zone youth season will no longer enjoy a fixed five (5) day rest period before that season begins. In spite of these concerns, we believe the desire of the waterfowl hunters to hunt as late as possible supports the change.

Proposed Dates: November 28, 2019 – December 1, 2019
December 7, 2019 – January 31, 2020

3. Reduce northern pintail daily bag limit to one (1)

In 2010, the USFWS and all four Flyway Councils, adopted an Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) modeling framework to inform northern pintail harvest management. These AHM models guide bag limits for pintails on an annual basis. Northern pintails are one of the few duck species that remain under long-term averages and careful management of this population is warranted. The northern pintail adaptive harvest management protocol considers two population models that utilize breeding survey data and harvest data. These models also take into account latitude bias of the nesting pintail population. The model output this year prescribed a regulatory choice for the 2019-2020 hunting season of a 1-bird daily bag limit and 60-day season. Therefore, for the 2019-2020 season, Kentucky must reduce the daily bag limit of Northern Pintails from two (2) birds daily to one (1) bird daily and corresponding reduction of possession limit from six (6) to three (3) pintails.

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission
Wildlife Committee Meeting
February 8, 2019

Action Item: Modification of 301 KAR 2:222, Waterfowl Hunting
Requirements of Public Lands

1. Remove KDFWR Refuge Areas from Lake Barkley

KDFWR closed the area west of the Cumberland River channel, as marked by buoys, between river mile 51, at Hayes Landing Light, south to the Tennessee Valley Authority's power transmission lines at river mile 55.5 to provide refuge for wintering waterfowl. In recent years, aerial surveys have found few if any waterfowl using this area. The closure no longer provides any meaningful benefit for waterfowl. Additionally, it created a great deal of confusion for hunters and anglers.

2. Remove the 200 yard closure for hunting adjacent to areas closed for waterfowl hunting

Current regulations for waterfowl hunting on public land requires hunters to be more than 200 yards from an area closed to hunting. This regulation has caused confusion for WMAs utilizing hunting units. Currently Ballard WMA and Sloughs WMA utilize units when assigning hunting opportunity to waterfowl hunters. Managers of these areas rotate hunting opportunity among units creating situations where hunters are hunting in a unit next to a "resting" and technically closed unit. The small size of some units make being 200 yards from this rested unit impossible. Refuge areas are designed to be robust to hunting pressure on the edges and no negative impact would be expected. We recommend removing this closure to hunting within 200 yards of a closed area.

3. Require all members of parties hunting in units to be within twenty-five (25) feet of another member with no party members being more than 100 feet away from any other party member. The addition of hunting units at Ballard and Sloughs WMA has resulted in confusion for parties hunting in these units. In past seasons, hunters were restricted to blinds and were required to hunt in close proximity based on this. With the opportunity to hunt in units, the requirement to stay in close proximity no longer exists. Duck hunters could potentially spread out in a unit. If parties were to separate widely, then hunting pressure is effectively increased. This could lead to more pressure than desired on our public lands. This rule would keep parties together so that hunting pressure generated by a party is limited to a single area but at the same time allows hunters to make best use of the natural habitats to conceal themselves.

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission
Wildlife Committee Meeting
February 8, 2019

Action Item: Modification of 301 KAR 2:300, Black Bear Seasons
and Requirements

1. Adjust bear harvest quotas

Bear numbers in the zone 1 counties have begun to reach and exceed social carrying capacity, oftentimes straining the human-bear relationship in these counties. In an effort to stabilize and begin to reduce the population, an increase in harvest is necessary. By subdividing the zone by county, we will apply harvest pressure across the zone and allow for a greater level of hunter opportunity. The zone 2 quota will only be increased by one female due to the subdivision of the zone discussed below.

2. Remove quota on male bears

This will allow for a more liberal harvest of male bears while still protecting the female demographic, the most important component to population persistence. Additionally, this will increase hunter opportunity.

3. Break zone 1 into individual counties with their own quota (McCreary, Bell, Harlan, and Letcher)

By subdividing the zone by county, we will apply harvest pressure evenly across the zone and allow for a greater level of hunter opportunity. With our liberalization of the female quota, this will ensure harvest levels remain sustainable across the zone while avoiding localized overharvest of female bears.

4. Subdivide zone 2 into an east and west zone

When liberalizing the female quota by one bear (11 in 2018, 12 proposed), we must ensure that we are avoiding localized overharvest. Dividing the zone will disperse harvest pressure and provide greater hunter opportunity in the form of a longer season.

5. Move modern gun season in McCreary, Bell, Harlan, Letcher, and zone 2 (east and west) to the second Saturday in December

For 2019, our current regulations would cause the gun season for bears to fall over Christmas week and very late in the calendar year (opening day = December 21). Greater hunter opportunity would be provided by avoiding the holiday week and moving the season earlier in the month in hopes of improved weather.

6. Do away with the zone 3 muzzleloader hunt and establish a modern gun season for bears in zone 3 opening the second Saturday in December for 7 consecutive days

We have not had a bear harvested in zone 3 since the inception of the zone in 2017. As such, we suggest moving the season to the first full week of gun season to offer greater opportunity and a better chance at harvesting a transient bear in the periphery of the bear zone.

7. Remove landowner restrictions around the Pine Mountain bear sanctuary

Landowners in this area have suggested this change for many years. Additionally, the area is adjacent to the town of Cumberland and likely influences the town's nuisance bear issues. Further, the size of this area is not great enough to protect bears from harvest as illustrated by GPS data of female bears in the area. Our harvest plan will continue to guarantee the sustainability of the bear population in this area even without these landowner restrictions in place.

8. Clean up weapons restrictions to allow the use of lesser weapons (i.e. archery during modern gun season)
9. Reopen public land in McCreary County (excludes BSFNRRRA sanctuary area)

With a very conservative quota of two female bears per year, we feel that we can open public land without fear of overharvest. Additionally, many areas in this county are reaching social carrying capacity and bears are losing their value due to local hunters not being able to access the vast amounts of public land and have an opportunity to harvest a bear.

10. Reword bear quota hunt with dogs language to say the following: "a person shall only harvest a bear with the use of unleashed dogs that are actively pursuing or chasing the bear prior to harvest"

This change is aimed at preventing abuse of the dog season where a hunter would simply take their unleashed "pet" dog into the woods and harvest a bear. Abuse of this regulatory loophole has been gaining in popularity for many years and was finally tested in the fall of 2018.

11. Move dog hunt back two days to the third Monday in October for 14 consecutive days

This move would remove the conflict with early muzzleloader deer season, which typically opens on the same weekend as the dog hunt.

12. Remove the requirement of the bear chase survey

This will be replaced by post-season survey for all bear hunters each year.

13. Remove time window to buy a bear chase permit

This is a relic of the old quota system where chase tags were given out in a drawing. Chase permits should be able to be purchased alongside the other bear permits at any point in the year.

14. Prohibit the use of telemetry equipment to locate or hunt bears

We have an abundance of radio-collared animals across the state that can be easily located via radio telemetry. This shall not prohibit the use of telemetry to track and recover hunting dogs.

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission
Wildlife Committee Meeting
February 8, 2019

Action Item: Modification of 301 KAR 4:090, Buying and selling
of inedible wildlife parts (title to be amended)

1. Require licensed taxidermist to dispose of the cervid carcass material and waste as is required for cervid meat processors in the newly established statute KRS 150.722.

KRS 150:722 was recently established to require cervid processors (deer processors) to dispose of the carcass material and waste. These same provisions should also be required for taxidermist. The correct disposal of carcass parts is necessary because improper disposal creates a source of potential risk for the introduction of CWD into the state.