

**Fisheries Committee Meeting
August 4, 2017
Frankfort, Kentucky**

Committee Members: Chairman Rusty Gailor, Frank Williams, Dr. Karl Clinard, and Harry Carloss, MD

AGENDA

- I. Update Item – Discontinue Announcing Fish Stocking Dates**
- II. Update Item – Paddle Craft Access and Safety Exploratory Meetings**

I. Update Item – Discontinue Announcing Fish Stocking Dates

This Department has announced fish stocking dates for many years. In fact, there was a time when precise time of day was included in the announcements. That latter practice was discontinued because, often, KDFWR trucks were delayed due to unforeseen events and anglers became frustrated while waiting for the stocking trucks to arrive. Today, the Department still announces stocking dates, and in many areas, this too is causing unintended consequences. The biggest negative impact from announcing stocking dates is felt by the majority of anglers who cannot take time off work on or near stocking dates. Anglers who can fish during the week concentrate their efforts on the day of stocking and ultimately remove an overwhelming amount of the fish stocked before the rest of the general public have a chance to fish; which is generally on the weekends. In some cases, we have had people try to simply net the fish as they are released from the hauling tanks; a sport fishing method that we do not prohibit in our regulations but of which we are obviously opposed. In order to have a more orderly removal of fish stocked into put-and-take fisheries (FINS lakes and various trout streams), the Fisheries Division recommends discontinuing announcing stocking dates for all put-and-takes fisheries. This would allow more people to have a better chance to catch and harvest fish for a longer period of time between stockings.

II. Update Item – Paddle craft Access and Safety Exploratory Meetings

In 2017, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife staff held 6 public meetings across the state regarding paddle craft. The objectives of the meetings were: 1) to gauge the need for additional access; 2) discuss the types of access preferred; and 3) discuss safety concerns of the paddling community. In total, 78 people attended the meetings including 10 clubs representing a combined membership of over 3,000 paddlers, 5 outfitters that annually provide access to approximately 50,000 clients, and several other private organizations. KDFWR staff began the meetings with a presentation that highlighted current paddle craft programs offered by the Department (including web sites and boater safety programs), KDFWR funding sources, and pilot paddle-craft access programs. Afterwards, the attendees were asked structured questions in regards to the aforementioned objectives. Access concerns varied widely from individuals stating they were opposed to increased access to others that brought a list of potential access sites. Attendees voiced a near unanimous support and appreciation for the Bluewater Trails articles and Stream Fisheries pages, with many commenting that they used them regularly. A comprehensive summary of the meetings will be provided at the Fisheries Committee meeting.