



Experimental Commercial Fishing Methods Program Permit Application

New Renewal

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Applicant (First, Middle Initial and Last Name): _____

Social Security # or Federal Tax I.D. #: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

County (if resident) _____

Name of Business (if applicable): _____

Business Address (if applicable): _____

City: _____

Office Use Only	
Receipt #:	_____
Permit #:	_____

New or Updated Address: Yes No

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Kentucky Resident Yes No

PAYMENT INFORMATION

The applicable fee is referenced at <https://fw.ky.gov/Licenses/Pages/Fees.aspx> and established in 301 KAR 5:022.

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Statement of Fact: (Required by KRS 164.772)

I hereby state that I am not in arrears or default on a repayment obligation under any financial assistance program with Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority. I understand that if I am in arrears or default on a repayment obligation under any financial assistance program with Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, my license or permit may not be issued or renewed.

Statement: I, the undersigned, hereby state that upon signing this instrument, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) and all of its employees shall be released of any liability that might occur as a result of my issuance of this license or permit. I certify that I have read and understand 301 KAR 1:152 Further, I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information herein is correct and true.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Make Checks payable to KDFWR
Mail application and payment to: Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources #1 Sportsman's Lane Frankfort, KY 40601 ATTN: Fisheries Division

Not effective until Spring of 2026

EXPERIMENTAL COMMERCIAL FISHING METHODS PROGRAM PERMIT APPLICATION

EXPERIMENTAL COMMERCIAL FISHING METHODS PROGRAM PERMITS (expires the last day of February)

Tier I Resident Experimental Commercial Fishing Methods Program permit
Tier I Non-Resident Experimental Commercial Fishing Methods Program permit
Tier II Resident Experimental Commercial Fishing Methods Program permit
Tier II Non-Resident Experimental Commercial Fishing Methods Program permit

DO NOT REMIT ANY FUNDS WITH THIS APPLICATION!

Applicants will be notified upon selection for the program, at which time they must purchase the appropriate permit for formal entry into the program.

Submission of false information in this application shall be grounds for disqualification from consideration and revocation of any Experimental Commercial Fishing Methods Program permits issued to the applicant.

APPLICANTS MUST ATTEST THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IS TRUE AND ACCURATE AT THE TIME OF SUBMISSION BY SIGNING AND DATING THE APPLICATION ON THE LAST PAGE.

Please check the box below indicating whether this application is for Tier I or Tier II of the Experimental Commercial Fishing Methods Program. **Note: Before an applicant becomes eligible for entry into Tier II, they must have been selected for Tier I level of the program to experiment with KDFWR observers present for at least 6 months with gear/method fished a minimum of 20 times, while adhering to all the requirements of Tier I and meeting all other milestones outlined in regulations.**

- I am applying for entry into **Tier I** of the Experimental Commercial Fishing Methods Program
- I am applying for entry into **Tier II** of the Experimental Commercial Fishing Methods Program (Skip to **Tier II Program Requirements** section on page 5)

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Tier I Program Requirements

To qualify for the Experimental Commercial Fishing Methods Program (301 KAR 1:152) the applicant must already possess all the following as well as agree to only conduct experimental commercial fishing under KDFWR supervision. Please check the box under Yes or No for each line.

Yes **No**

- Have a minimum of three years commercial fishing experience with at least two years holding a valid commercial fishing license.
- Have a boat and motor(s) meeting the following requirements:
- a. Minimum boat length of twenty-two (22) feet, with space for essential crew and one department-appointed observer, along with storage capacity for harvested fish;
 - b. Outboard motor with a minimum of seventy five (75) horsepower;
 - c. Required safety equipment and personal flotation devices (PFD);
 - d. Fishing electronics, including traditional and side-imaging sonar, and water temperature;
 - e. Valid boat registration.
- Have a towing vehicle capable of boat transportation to and from designated removal sites and hauling of harvests for sale or disposal.
- Have the necessary Kentucky Department of Transportation identification permits, insurance cards, and federal transportation tags for commercial transport of fish.

The following sections are to be completed so it can be determined if the applicant meets the minimum qualifications for Tier I of the Experimental Commercial Fishing Methods Program. Entry into Tier I of the Experimental Commercial Fishing Methods Program is competitive and there are a limited number of participants at any one time. The information provided below will also be compared to the scoring criteria to rank applicants.

Note: You may use additional sheets of paper if additional space is needed to adequately answer the questions below. Just be sure to reference the question numbers with your answers.

1. Describe your commercial fishing experience in detail, noting the length of time you have commercially fished in total along with the methods used and the species targeted with each method.

2. Describe your commercial fishing experience specifically fishing for invasive carp species (Bighead Carp, Black Carp, Grass Carp, Silver Carp) in detail, noting the length of time you have commercially fished in total for invasive carp species along with the methods used and species targeted.

3. Describe your technical approach to this project in detail. Give a description of the experimental fishing gear and/or methods to be used and the preferred locations to be fished. If you already have experience fishing with this gear/method outside of Kentucky, then please provide the number of years and describe the results.

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4. Applicant shall possess all the components of the fishing gear(s) needed for the experimentation described by the time experimentation is to begin. Please check only one box below.

I currently possess all the components of the fishing gear(s) needed for the experimentation.

I do NOT currently possess all the components of the fishing gear(s) needed for the experimentation but will acquire such if selected.

5. Please explain how your proposal will help KDFWR achieve its mission of reducing the number of invasive carp in Kentucky waters. Describe the efficacy of the proposed gear/method and how it will achieve a reasonable level of success while also minimizing bycatch of non-target species, particularly sport fish.

Tier II Program Requirements

Yes **No**

Continue to meet the boat, tow vehicle and equipment requirements that were necessary for entry into Tier I of the program.

Shown proficiency in use of the experimental gear/method by either:

a. Participating for at least six (6) months in Tier I of the program, with gear/method fished a minimum of twenty (20) times; or

b. Previously utilizing experimental gear/method through a department Memorandum of Agreement and have been released from department observation of experimental fishing activities.

Maintained satisfactory communication with KDFWR staff during Tier I activities.

Yes **No**

 Harvested at least 200,000 pounds of invasive carps through Tier I of the program within the previous year.

 Harvested a weight ratio of at least eighty (80) percent invasive carp to twenty (20) percent scaled rough fish over the most recent ten (10) fishing days under Tier I of the program.

 By-catch, in the form of sportfish, must have represented five (5) percent or less by number of the fish caught, based upon the Department observer's visual estimate, over the most recent ten (10) fishing days under Tier I of the program. By-catch must have been in a condition where survival could be expected upon release.

I hereby attest all information in this application is true and accurate at the time of submission.

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

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