

# Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources



## Commission Meeting

December 5, 2025 | 8:30 AM (ET)

In-person: Salato Wildlife Education Center – Schaaf Room

#1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601

Livestream: [YouTube.com/FishandWildlifeKY](https://www.youtube.com/FishandWildlifeKY)

## AGENDA

### Opening

- Call to Order and Welcome
- Invocation
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call
- Chair's Remarks
- Commissioner's Remarks

### Informational Items:

- Quarterly Financial Reports  
Attachment I-1

### Action items:

- Minutes from September 19, 2025 Quarterly Commission Meeting  
Attachment A-1
- Create regulations to define the waterbodies and the area of some waterbodies where wakesports will be allowed
  - Amend [301 KAR 6:030](#) – Waterway safety requirements.
    - Propose that wakesports will only be permitted at least 300 feet from shore on all sides, and at least 300 feet from a commercial dock or moorage harbor on eligible waterbodies.
    - Propose a provision that wakeboat users shall drain the ballast tanks of their boats to the fullest extent practicable upon leaving

a body of water and before leaving the ramp area.

- Wakesports eligible waters shall be: Mississippi River, Ohio River, Kentucky Lake, Lake Cumberland, Lake Barkley, Barren River Lake, Green River Lake, Cave Run Lake, Dale Hollow Lake, Laurel River Lake, Nolin River Lake, Rough River Lake, Taylorsville Lake, Herrington Lake, Yatesville Lake, Dewey Lake, Lake Beshear, and Lake Linville. All other waters in Kentucky shall be ineligible for wakesports.

- Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity

Attachment A-2

- Modifications of Black Bass Size and Daily Limits, Shovelnose Sturgeon Daily Limit, Skipjack Herring Daily Limit, and Additions to the Fishing in Neighborhoods Program

- Amend [301 KAR 1:201](#) – Taking of fish by traditional fishing methods.
- Remove the slot limit on Largemouth Bass at Cave Run Lake and enact that there will be no size limit on Largemouth Bass and the aggregate daily limit on black bass will be 10 fish (18-inch minimum size limit on Smallmouth Bass will remain).
- Remove the slot limit on Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass on Otter Creek in Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area.
- On the following waterbodies with a black bass protective slot limit, change the black bass aggregate daily limit from 6 fish to 10 fish. The lakes are: Beaver Lake, Bert Combs Lake, Beulah Lake, Boltz Lake, Carter Caves State Park Lake, Cave Run Lake, Corinth Lake, Elkhorn Creek, Elmer Davis Lake, General Butler State Park Lake, Grayson Lake, Lake Blythe, Lake Malone, Lake Pennyrite, Lincoln Homestead State Park Lake, McNeely Lake, Panbowl Lake, Wood Creek Lake.
- Add a daily limit of 2 fish for Shovelnose Sturgeon.
- Add a daily limit of 100 fish for Skipjack Herring.
- Add two small lakes to the Fishing In Neighborhoods (FINs) Program. The following two lakes would be added to the “List of Special Lakes and Ponds” that is material incorporated by reference and thus would be managed under FINs Program regulations.
  - Owens’ Lake – 8.6-acre lake in Boone County owned by the City of Walton
  - Harry T. Clark Community Park Pond – 1.2-acre county-owned lake in Rowan County
- Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity

- ❖ CWD Response to Pulaski County Positive Detection

- Add these 9 counties to the CWD Surveillance Zone: Pulaski, Wayne, Whitley, McCreary, Lincoln, Laurel, Rockcastle, Russell, and Casey Counties

- Authorize baiting under Commissioner's authorization
- Prohibit deer rehabilitation within the designated Surveillance Zone
- Implement carcass restrictions
- Expand deer scrape study into the designated Surveillance Zone
  
- Clarify that the guiding of hunters on a WMA for profit constitutes commercial activity and would therefore be prohibited and clarify that fishing tournaments that launch at a WMA boat ramp is not a commercial activity under the current Wildlife Management Area regulations (301 KAR 3:010), define commercial activity and modify the group definition in (301 KAR 3:001)
  - Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity  
Attachment A-3
  
- Modify deer hunting regulations to allow hunting on properties owned by county or local governments
  - Amend [301 KAR 2:178](#) Deer hunting on wildlife management areas, state parks, other public lands, and federally controlled areas
  - Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity  
Attachment A-4
  
- Amend and incorporate by reference applications and reporting forms for Resident Fur Buyer, Resident Fur Processor, Non-Resident Fur Buyer, and Non-Resident 3 Day Fur Buyer Licenses
  - Amend [301 KAR 4:090](#) Taxidermy and the buying and selling of inedible wildlife parts.
  - Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity  
Attachment A-5
  
- Update the special fundraising permits drawing regulation
  - Amend [301 KAR 5:210](#) Special agency fundraising permits
  - Amend [301 KAR 5:022](#) for conformity
  - Modify definitions
  - Re-order of permit drawing sequence
  - Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity.  
Attachment A-6
  
- Committee Meetings
  - Commission member Meade requested a discussion on the potential formation of a limited number of committees

**Discussion Items:**

- Promulgation of a new regulation regarding procurement

- Promulgate new regulations under 301 KAR Chapter 11 to provide transparency in purchasing policies
- Itemize procurement procedures, contracts and other related administrative services policies
- Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity
- Modifications of Regulations Controlling Land and Water Use at Department Lakes
  - Amend [301 KAR 1:016](#) – Use of lands and waters on lakes owned or controlled by the department
  - Merge the Shoreline Use Permit with the Boat Dock Permit
    - Align the permit expiration dates
  - Clarify other requirements
  - Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity
- Fall Turkey Archery and Crossbow Seasons
  - Commission member Raymer has requested to amend [301 KAR 2:144](#) to remove hens from legal take during fall archery season and fall crossbow season
  - Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity
- Spring Turkey Season
  - Commission member Raymer has requested to amend [301 KAR 2:142](#) to remove bearded hens from legal take during spring turkey season
  - Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity
- Overlap of youth-only gun deer season and early muzzleloader season
  - CWD Working Group Commission members requested revisiting the overlap of these two deer hunting seasons in [301 KAR 2:172](#)
  - Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity
- Modify bear season
  - Amend [301 KAR 2:300](#) Black bear seasons and requirements
    - Remove the physical check requirement for harvested bears and require hunters to submit a tooth of any harvested bear to KDFWR via mail
    - Expand the chase-only season beginning the day after spring turkey season through the end of September
    - Prohibit bear chase on public land within the elk hunting zone during the month of September to not conflict with elk archery and gun seasons
    - Expand archery and modern gun seasons in bear zone 1 to run a full five days for each season (currently 3 days each)

- Establish a youth only bear season opening the second Saturday in October and running two days (overlaps the first two days of youth deer) in bear zones 1, 2, and 3
- Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity

### **New Business Item:**

- Create a new January 3-day antlerless firearms hunt in Zone 1-3 counties
  - Amend [301 KAR 2:172](#) Deer hunting seasons, zones, and requirements
  - Create an antlerless only firearms hunt the last 3 days of Kentucky's deer season (Martin Luther King holiday weekend) in deer zones 1-3
  - Remove references to disposal permits to conform with [301 KAR 2:176](#)
  - Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity
- Non-Resident Hunting License
  - Amend [301 KAR 5:022](#) to bundle the Non-Resident Hunting License to also include a Non-Resident Fishing License
  - Increase the cost from \$160 to \$195
  - Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity
- **Public Comments<sup>1</sup>**
- **Set a date for the next Quarterly Commission Meeting**
- **Adjourn**

Next Quarterly Commission Meeting Date: TBD

<sup>1</sup>Public comments regarding New Business Items or Discussion Items on the agenda may be submitted by email to [FW.PublicAffairs@ky.gov](mailto:FW.PublicAffairs@ky.gov). Emailed comments received by 5pm (Eastern) two days preceding the meeting date will be distributed to all Commission members on the day prior to the meeting and read by KDFWR staff during the Commission meeting for up to 3 minutes total per commenter, time permitting and at the discretion of the Commission chair. Emailed comments allow Commission members adequate time for consideration and correspondence if necessary, and they allow the Commission to conduct business more efficiently during meetings. Note: A commenter's contact information is not required for emailed comments, but will be necessary if a response is requested, and other than name and affiliation it will not be publicly disclosed if provided. Anonymous comments will be distributed to the Commission members but may not be read during the meeting. The Commission chair reserves the right to not read publicly any comments that are libelous, profane, derogatory of others, not pertaining to business items on the meeting agenda, or redundant with other comments. Questions will receive an email response. Commenters should include "Commission meeting" in their email subject line and include in their email message their first and last name(s), Kentucky county(s) of residence (or state of residence if a nonresident), and organizational affiliation and position if they are an officer or official representative for a particular organization. In-person attendees of meetings may also request to speak up to 3 minutes total per commenter on New Business Item(s) or Discussion Item(s) on the agenda, but will be required to sign-in on the public comment request form on the table/counter at the meeting room entrance by 9:00am (Eastern) on the day of the meeting, and provide name, county and state of residence, organization represented and official position (if applicable), and agenda items being addressed. Commenters who speak in person will not have their emailed comments read publicly at the meeting and are asked to avoid voicing comments that are redundant with others speaking prior to them during the allotted public comments timeframe.

## Attachment I-1

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

DATE: December 5, 2025

**Item:** Quarterly Financial Statements

Please refer to draft financial statements document

**Attachment A-1**

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

**ACTION ITEM**

DATE: December 5, 2025

**Item:** Minutes from September 19, 2025 Quarterly Commission Meeting

Please refer to draft minutes document

## Attachment A-2

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

### **ACTION ITEM**

DATE: December 5, 2025

**Item:** Create regulations to define the waterbodies and the area of some waterbodies where wakesports will be allowed

- Amend [301 KAR 6:030](#) – Waterway safety requirements.

Regulation 301 KAR 6:030 prohibits certain unsafe practices on the waterways of the Commonwealth.

KDFWR proposes the following amendments to 301 KAR 6:030:

- Propose that wakesports will only be permitted at least 300 feet from shore on all sides, and at least 300 feet from a commercial dock or moorage harbor on eligible waterbodies.
- Create a list of lakes and rivers where wakesports activities would be permitted. Wakesports would be prohibited elsewhere.
- Wakeboat users shall drain the ballast tanks of their boats to the fullest extent practicable upon leaving a body of water and before leaving the ramp area.
- Wakesports will only be allowed on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and on the following 16 reservoirs in Kentucky:
  - Kentucky Lake
  - Lake Cumberland
  - Lake Barkley
  - Barren River Lake
  - Green River Lake
  - Cave Run Lake
  - Dale Hollow Lake (KY)
  - Laurel River Lake
  - Nolin River Lake
  - Rough River Lake
  - Taylorsville Lake
  - Herrington Lake
  - Yatesville Lake
  - Dewey Lake

- Lake Beshear
- Lake Linville
- Wakesports shall not be allowed on any other water body.

Participation in wakesports are becoming more popular among recreational boaters. Wakeboats possess special design features intended to create bigger wakes of sufficient size that a person may surf on the wake (without a tow rope). Wakeboats can intentionally create waves that are 2-3 times larger than regular boats and contain much more energy than wakes from fishing boats and traditional ski boats. Research has shown that a wakeboat wave must be at least 500 ft from shore to have the same energy as a wake from other boats 200 ft from shore. These larger wakes have been shown to have the following negative effects: pose a danger to other boaters, damage property (boats, docks, etc), cause habitat destruction in shallow waters, erode shorelines, resuspend nutrients leading to harmful algal blooms, and spread aquatic invasive species in ballast water. KDFWR has received complaints from recreational anglers and boaters and staff have expressed concerns on many of these issues on smaller waterbodies. A number of other states have already begun regulating these activities. We propose the above regulations for the safety and enjoyment of all recreational users on Kentucky waters.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

**ACTION ITEM**

DATE: December 5, 2025

**Item:** Clarify that the guiding of hunters on a WMA for profit constitutes commercial activity and would therefore be prohibited and clarify that fishing tournaments that launch at a WMA boat ramp is not a commercial activity under the current Wildlife Management Area regulations (301 KAR 3:010), define commercial activity and modify the group definition in (301 KAR 3:001)

Commercial activity, with limited exceptions outlined in regulation, is prohibited on wildlife management areas (WMAs) per 301 KAR 3:010 - Public Use of Wildlife Management Areas. Pertinent regulation excerpts are listed below:

*Section 4. Prohibited Activities. Except as authorized by the department, on a WMA a person shall not:*

*(14) Engage in an activity which:*

*(a) Is commercial in nature and intent unless specified in Section 6(3) of this administrative regulation;*

*Section 6(3)(b). An activity prohibited in Section 4 of this administrative regulation except that a commercial activity may be permitted if it is:*

- 1. An informational booth;*
- 2. A food vendor;*
- 3. For collecting registration or entrance fees;*
- 4. A similar ancillary activity authorized by the event permit; or*
- 5. An ecotourism event approved by the department.*

At some point in the Department's history, a legal opinion was tendered that allowed guiding for elk to occur on WMAs. At this point, guiding on WMAs in the elk zone became commonplace even with the regulation remaining unchanged and generally prohibiting all commercial activity. This set up a clear discrepancy between those WMAs within the elk zone and all other WMAs in the state.

The Department's current legal opinion is that commercial guiding on WMAs is not permissible. It was verified that no other references in regulation or statute would grant the ability to commercially guide on WMAs.

Clarify that fishing tournaments that launch from a WMA boat ramp is not a commercial activity and modify group permit requirement to exempt the requirement for fishing tournaments at boat ramps on WMAs. Lastly, amend [301 KAR 3:001](#) to include a definition of commercial activity and modify the group definition to exempt fishing tournaments that launch from WMA boat ramps.

## Attachment A-4

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

### **ACTION ITEM**

DATE: December 5, 2025

**Item:** Modify deer hunting regulations to allow hunting on properties owned by county or local governments

- Amend 301 KAR 2:178 Deer hunting on wildlife management areas, state parks, other public lands, and federally controlled areas.

Wildlife Division staff have received requests to assist with the development and management of deer hunting on several tracts of property owned by local or county governments. There is currently not a process for these areas to be legally hunted given that they are publicly owned areas seeking public hunting access. This amendment to the administrative regulation will allow for local and county governments to conduct controlled deer hunts on their properties and establish a hunting framework.

## Attachment A-5

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

### **ACTION ITEM**

DATE: December 5, 2025

**Item:** Amend and incorporate by reference applications and reporting forms for Resident Fur Buyer, Resident Fur Processor, Non-Resident Fur Buyer, and Non-Resident 3 Day Fur Buyer Licenses

- Amend [301 KAR 4:090](#) Taxidermy and the buying and selling of inedible wildlife parts.

The current applications and fur buyer reporting forms are outdated and in need of revision. These forms also need to be incorporated by reference within regulation.

## Attachment A-6

### Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

#### **ACTION ITEM**

DATE: December 5, 2025

**Item:** Update the special fundraising permits drawing regulation

- Amend [301 KAR 5:210](#) Special agency fundraising permits
- Amend [301 KAR 5:022](#) for conformity
- Modify definitions
- Re-order of permit drawing sequence

301 KAR 5:210 establishes the requirements for the issuance and use of Special Agency Fundraising Permits.

KDFWR proposes the following changes to 301 KAR 5:210:

- Change the title of administrative regulation to “Agency fundraising permits” to further distinguish these permits as different from other special permits; and amend the rest of the regulation for conformity.
- Rename the “Elk hunt sweepstakes permit” to “Elk Expedition permit”; rename the “Premium combination big game permit” to “Grand Slam permit”; rename the “Special Agency Fundraising Permit” to “Agency Fundraising Permit”; rename the “Standard combination big game permit” to “Big Game Pursuit permit”; and amend subsequent references to these permits for conformity.
- Change the application period deadline from May 30 to May 31
- Change the order of drawing sequence to:
  1. Grand Slam permit
  2. Elk Expedition permit
  3. Big Game Pursuit permit

301 KAR 5:022 establishes fees and terms for licenses, permits, and tags:

- KDFWR proposes to amend 301 KAR 5:022 for conformity