

Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources



Special Called Commission Meeting

May 18, 2026 | 1:30 PM (ET)

In-person: Salato Wildlife Education Center – Schaaf Room

#1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601

[Live Video Teleconference¹](#)

AGENDA

Opening

- [Call to Order](#)
- [Invocation](#)
- [Pledge of Allegiance](#)
- [Chair's Remarks](#)
- [Commissioner's Remarks](#)

Information Items

- [2026 Legislative Session Highlights](#)
- [Purpose of the Meeting](#)
- [Commission Nomination Meetings](#)
 - To comply with [2026-HB10E](#), amend [301 KAR 4:001](#) Selection of fish and wildlife resources commission nominees to comply with amendments made to KRS 150.022 and KRS 150.061
 - Revise provisions regarding public notification for and scheduling of nomination
 - Update requirements for nominees to serve including affidavit from nominees prior to nomination meeting
 - Volunteers serving amended to "commission members" in KRS
 - Recodify the regulation to [Chapter 11](#)
 - Clean up any other regulations as necessary for conformity
- [Chapter 6 Regulations](#)
 - To comply with [2026-SB 39E](#), amend [301 KAR 6:001](#) Definitions
 - Amend definitions related to wakeboat, wakesports and hydrofoil
 - Conform to amendments made to KRS 235.280
 - Clean up any other regulations as necessary for conformity

- Fishing on Private Waters
 - To comply with [2026-SB39E](#), amend [301 KAR 1:001](#) Definitions- Comply with amendments to KRS 150.170 and KRS 150.180
 - Define “private waters” as any water body that is not a public water or a “private lake or pond”
 - Define “private lake or pond” as any waterbody that is:
 - On private land;
 - Not connected by surface water to any public waters;
 - Not accessible to fish from other public bodies of water; and
 - Not located within the one hundred (100) year floodplain.
 - Amend [301 KAR 1:201](#) Taking of fish by traditional fishing methods and [301 KAR 1:410](#) Taking of fish by nontraditional fishing methods
 - Create a section that exempts the following individuals from statewide daily limits, size limits, or method of take on “private lakes or ponds”
 - A bona fide owner of private land who is also a Kentucky resident on their “private lakes or ponds”
 - An individual extended the same privileges in written or electronic form
 - Amend [301 KAR 1:125](#) Transportation of fish
 - Create a provision to clarify that a license holder who transports fish from a “private lake or pond” requires written or electronic permission from the resident bonafide landowner
 - Clean up any other regulations as necessary for conformity
- Modify Special Agency Fundraising Permit Application Instructions
 - To conform with [2026-HB142E](#), amend [301 KAR 5:210](#) Special agency fundraising permits
 - An individual may request to be entered into for the standard big game combination permit (exempts elk drawing) if they:
 - Successfully harvest 4 or more female antlerless deer in an overpopulated area
 - Submit a time stamped photo of each to the department via the telecheck process
 - Submits a request to the department to be entered into the standard big game combination permit drawing
 - Clean up any other regulations as necessary for conformity
- Wildlife Causing Damage
 - To comply with [2026-HB142E](#), amend [301 KAR 2:176](#) Wildlife causing damage and landowner designee process
 - Allow an individual who takes wildlife using KRS 150.170 to contact the department to report the take
 - Allow an individual who takes wildlife using KRS150.170 to contact the department for a carcass tag to remove the carcass from the property and utilize the same

- Issue 5 destruction tags per year to a landowner or approved designee to take antlerless deer, valid for 2 years each
- Clarify that wildlife taken with control tags are to be telechecked
- Allow electronic processing of Wildlife Damage Designee Form and Out-of-Season Wildlife Destruction Reporting Form
- Amend the following forms:
 - Wildlife Damage Designee Form
 - Out-of-Season Wildlife Destruction Reporting Form
- Conform to amendments made to KRS 150.170 and KRS 150.390
- Clean up any other regulations as necessary for conformity

Discussion Items

- Deer Hunting Season Expansion
 - To comply with [2026-HB142E](#), amend [301 KAR 2:172](#) Deer hunting seasons, zones and requirements
 - Add a 4-day antlerless-only firearms season on the last Friday in September in deer zone 1 counties
 - Add a 3-day antlerless-only firearms season on the last 3 days of Kentucky's deer season (Martin Luther King Jr. weekend) in deer zones 1 -3 (currently an action item with the Commission)
 - Define "overpopulated areas" as any county that has a Deer Zone 1 designation
 - Clean up any other regulations as necessary for conformity

- Modify Public Lands Deer Hunting Seasons on Zone 1 WMAs
 - Amend [301 KAR 2:178](#) Deer hunting on public properties
 - Open the following WMAs for the 4-day antlerless deer firearm season that starts on the last weekend of September and the 3-day MLK antlerless deer firearms season: Yatesville, Grayson, L.B. Davidson, Harris Dickerson, Clear Creek, Yellowbank, Blackford Oaks, Lee Nelson, Gabbard Branch, Rough River, Marrowbone, Green River State Forest, Nolin River, Rolling Fork, Stephens Creek, Big Rivers, Obion Creek, Kentucky Lake, Ferguson Creek, Kaler Bottoms, Beechy Creek, Jones-Keeney, Higginson-Henry, Peabody, Sloughs
 - Open the following WMAs for the 4-day antlerless deer firearm season that starts on the last weekend of September (due to waterfowl closures): Lake Barkley, Doug Travis, Ohio River Islands
 - Clean up any other regulations as necessary for conformity

- Night Hunting of Beavers
 - To comply with [2026-SB39E](#), amend [301 KAR 2:251](#) Hunting and trapping seasons and limits for furbearers based on amendments to KRS 150.360
 - Allow the take of beavers at night from December 1 through the last day of February
 - Prohibit in a county or area when a deer or elk firearm season is open
 - Allow the use of any artificial light or other means (night vision, thermal and infrared technologies) designed to make wildlife visible at night during this period
 - Any artificial light or other means designed to make wildlife visible at night shall not be connected to or cast from a mechanized vehicle.
 - Prohibit the use of firearms except for any rimfire caliber or shotguns using shot shells
 - Clean up any other regulations as necessary for conformity
- Night Hunting of Bobcats
 - To comply with [2026-SB39E](#), amend [301 KAR 2:251](#) Hunting and trapping seasons and limits for furbearers based on amendments to KRS 150.360
 - Allow the take of bobcats at night from December 1 through the last day of February
 - Bag limit of 1 bobcat at night (3 are allowed to be harvested with a firearm)
 - Prohibit in a county or area when a deer or elk firearm season is open
 - Allow the use of any artificial light or other means (night vision, thermal and infrared technologies) designed to make wildlife visible at night during this period
 - Any artificial light or other means designed to make wildlife visible at night shall not be connected to or cast from a mechanized vehicle
 - On public land, a person shall not use any equipment other than a bow, crossbow, or shotgun of 12 gauge or less and shall not use a shotgun shell with a single-projectile
 - On private land, a person shall not use any equipment other than a bow, crossbow, or shotgun of 12 gauge or less, muzzleloader of .54 caliber or less, or any modern centerfire firearm
 - Harvested bobcats must still be telechecked
 - Clean up any other regulations as necessary for conformity

Action Item

- Approval of the Minutes of the March 20, 2026, quarterly meeting Attachment A-1

- Election of officers to comply with [2026-SB39E](#), and maintain consistent terms for all officers
 - Chair
 - Vice-Chair
 - Secretary

Public Comments²

Adjourn

¹The web link for public viewing of the meeting livestream is [YouTube.com/FishandWildlifeKY](https://www.youtube.com/FishandWildlifeKY). A room for public viewing of the meeting will also be available beginning at 1:30 P.M. (EST) in the Schaaf Room at the Wildlife Education Center at 1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601.

²Public comments regarding New Business Items or Discussion Items on the agenda may be submitted by email to FW.PublicAffairs@ky.gov. Emailed comments received by 10am (Eastern) on Monday, May 18th will be distributed to all Commission members at the meeting. Emailed public comments, or a summary thereof, may be read by KDFWR staff during the Commission meeting (individual comments 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 1:30pm (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 A-1

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting
ACTION ITEM
DATE: May 18, 2026

Item: Minutes from the March 20, 2026, Quarterly Commission Meeting

Please refer to draft minutes document