



Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

ACTION ITEMS RECAP

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Quarterly Commission Meeting March 1, 2024

NOTE: The following is a summary of action taken by the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission at its quarterly meeting on March 1, 2024. Official meeting minutes will be reviewed at a future meeting. Please note that proposed regulation changes are reviewed by the legislative branch for legal conformity, which typically takes several months. Both proposed and recently enacted amendments are posted at fw.ky.gov. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources provides this summary to enhance the public's awareness about potential changes to hunting, fishing, boating or other related regulations.

In a meeting held March 1, 2024, the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission received an informational update on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) since its detection in a deer in Ballard County in late 2023 and approved two action items proposed as next steps in Kentucky's CWD response plan. They voted to recommend amending regulations regarding non-traditional fishing methods, youth licensing, spring squirrel season, dog breeds for bear hunting, and non-resident licenses and permits fees.

In addition to approving the Dec. 1, 2023, quarterly meeting minutes and quarterly financial reports, the Commission voted in favor of approving the following Action Items presented at the meeting (authorizing staff to promulgate regulatory changes for legislative approval):

- Modify nontraditional fishing regulations to clarify gig possession restrictions, specify possession limits for shovelnose sturgeon and sportfish, revise sport fishing trotline tagging requirements, and prohibit hand grabbing on smaller lakes owned or managed by the department.
 - Amend 301 KAR 1:410 – Taking of fish by nontraditional fishing methods.
 - Add dates when possession of a gig of any kind is illegal, to match dates established in 301 KAR 1:082 – Frog season; limits.

- Set a shovelnose sturgeon possession limit of two (2) times the daily limit and a possession limit of two (2) times the daily limit for sportfish taken by trotline, jugline, or setline.
 - Require that sportfishing trotlines must be tagged on both ends with the angler's fishing license customer identification number.
 - Prohibit hand grabbing on lakes less than 500 acres owned or managed by the Department.
- Informational update and recommended next steps on CWD response in western Kentucky
 - Addition of 3 counties to the CWD Surveillance Zone (Ballard, Carlisle and McCracken counties were added to the existing surveillance zone list of Calloway, Fulton, Graves, Hickman and Marshall counties)
 - Participate in a Mississippi State University deer scrape study
- Add two days to the end of the spring squirrel season for additional hunter opportunity
 - Amend 301 KAR 2:122 – Seasons, methods, and limits for small game
 - Extend season through the third Sunday in June
- Add Siberian Laika to the list of approved dog breeds/crossbreeds that can be used for bear hunting with dogs
 - Amend 301 KAR 2:300 – Black bear seasons and requirements
 - Bear dog hunters have requested the addition of this breed
- Clean up regulation language on youth licensing
 - Amend 301 KAR 5:022 to add privileges for youths at no additional cost
 - Add to Youth Sportsman's License the following permits:
 - Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit
 - Spring Turkey Permit and Fall Turkey Permit
 - Ballard WMA Waterfowl Hunt Permit (valid entire season for Youth Sportsman's holders turning 16)
 - Annual fishing license
 - Exempt youths 15 and younger from Ballard WMA Waterfowl Hunt Permit requirement
 - Clearly communicate in the hunting/fishing guides and on the website the privileges that are included in applicable youth licenses and permits
- Increase fees for selected nonresident licenses and permits
 - Amend 301 KAR 5:022

- Increase the nonresident hunting license by \$10
- Increase the nonresident deer permit by \$50
- Increase the nonresident spring and fall turkey permits by \$25

If approved by the legislature, proposed administrative regulation changes are anticipated to take effect within six to nine months of their filing.

The Commission voted to table for later consideration “Revised provisions for hunting and fishing on public lands” outlined in 301 KAR 3:005, to allow staff additional time to update recommended provisions pertaining to public fishing access sites the department owns or manages that may not be suitable for public hunting.

The Commission also voted unanimously to allow Chairman Josh Lillard to start negotiations on a personal services contract for the commissioner of the Department.

The meeting was livestreamed on the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources’ YouTube [channel](#), where a [replay](#) of the meeting is available on demand.

Individuals or organizations may contact their district representative on the commission about any pertinent topic of concern. Procedures for submitting public comments about current business items via email or in person are outlined in the agenda for each meeting, which is generally posted on the agency’s website 1-2 weeks prior to the meeting date.

The commission, a [nine-member board](#) comprised of volunteers who serve four-year terms, recommends hunting, fishing and boating regulations on behalf of the anglers, hunters, and other wildlife-related stakeholders in the commonwealth. Any recommendation by the commission to amend or create a state administrative regulation must receive legislative approval before becoming law. The process of promulgating regulations spans several months.

The next quarterly commission meeting date is tentatively scheduled for June 21, 2024, in Frankfort. Agendas will be posted at fw.ky.gov when available.

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