

Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources



Commission Meeting

June 12, 2026 | 8:30 AM (ET)

In-person: Salato Wildlife Education Center – Schaaf Room

#1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601

[Live Video Teleconference¹](#)

AGENDA

Opening:

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

Informational Items:

- [Quarterly Financial Reports](#)
Attachment I-1
- [Budget Discussion](#)
- [CWD Updates and 2026 Hunting Season Recommendations](#)

Action Items:

- [Minutes from May 18, 2026, Special Called Commission Meeting](#)
Attachment A-1
- [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
- Create a new January 3-day Antlerless Firearms Hunt in Zone 2 & 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 Jr. weekend) in Deer Zones 2 & 3
 - Remove references to disposal permits to conform with [301 KAR 2:176](#) – Wildlife Causing Damage and Landowner Designee Process
 - Cleanup 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 in that county or area
 - 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
 - Prohibit night hunting of beavers on public land
 - Amend [301 KAR 2:049](#) – Small Game and Furbearer Hunting and Trapping on Public Areas – to clarify that hunting of beavers at night will be prohibited to align with the prohibition of night hunting of coyotes on the Daniel Boone National Forest, George Washington & Jefferson National Forests, Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge and Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge
 - 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 in that county or area
 - 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
 - Remove bag limit incentive from regulation and allow Wildlife Division to develop a new incentive program aimed at increasing jaw submission without a mandatory submission requirement
 - Harvested bobcats must still be telechecked
 - Add bobcat and river otter to telecheck lookup review
 - Amend [301 KAR 2:049](#) – Small Game and Furbearer Hunting and Trapping on Public Areas – to clarify that hunting of bobcats at night will be prohibited to align with the prohibition of night hunting of coyotes on the Daniel Boone, George Washington & Jefferson National Forests, Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge and Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge
 - Clean up any other regulations as necessary for conformity

- Non-Resident Hunting License
 - Amend [301 KAR 5:022](#)- License, Tag, Registration, and Permit Fees - to bundle the Non-Resident Hunting License to also include a Non-Resident Fishing License
 - Increase the cost of a Non-Resident Hunting License by \$35 from \$169.12 to \$204.12
 - Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity

Discussion Items:

- Modifications of Regulations Controlling Land and Water Use at Department Lakes – Dept. requests to table this item to the next meeting
 - 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
 - Modifications of Regulations to Allow Hoop Net and Seine for the Harvest of Invasive Carp
 - Amend [301 KAR 1:146](#) – Commercial Fishing Gear
 - Add hoop net and seine with construction and method specifications as a legal commercial fishing gear for invasive carp
 - Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity
- Attachment D-1

- Modifications of Regulations Pertaining to the Harvest of Invasive Carp
 - Amend [301 KAR 1:152](#) – Harvest and Sale of Invasive Carp
 - Recommend the following changes to the Invasive Carp and Scaled Rough Fish Harvest Program:
 - Add reporting of the timeframe of when fishing activities will occur and the commercial fishing gear to be employed to the required call-in information
 - Increase harvest ratio of invasive carp to scaled rough fish from 65/35 to 75/25
 - Recommend eliminating the waiver of commercial fishing license fees for invasive carp only harvest
 - Include hoop net and seine with construction specifications as allowable commercial fishing gear in the Invasive Carp and Scaled Rough Fish Harvest Program and provide methods requirements
 - KDFWR to update list of program participants monthly instead of weekly

- Recommend the following changes to the Experimental Commercial Fishing Methods Program:
 - Expand the program to any Kentucky waterbody open to commercial fishing per [301 KAR 1:150](#)- Waters Open to Commercial Fishing
 - Require Experimental Commercial Fishing Methods Permit within 30 days of selection for the program or else the selection is nullified and the permit forfeited
 - Add language that upon selection there is a required minimum participation of five experimentation days in the license year or else they are ineligible for the Experimental Commercial Fishing Methods Program the following year
 - Clarify that suspended commercial fishers are ineligible to be unlicensed helpers in either program
 - Remove requirement for daily harvest summary card in either program and require additional data to be reported on monthly commercial fishing report
 - Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity
- Attachment D-2
- Modifications of Regulations Pertaining to Commercial Fishing Harvest Reporting and Overharvest Protections
 - Amend [301 KAR 1:155](#) – Commercial Fishing Requirements
 - Clarify the definition of a hoop net
 - Modify regulations and documents incorporated by reference to allow for transition to online application for commercial fishing licenses and permits and reporting of commercial fishing harvest
 - Strengthen the penalties for non-reporting of commercial fish harvest
 - 1st Offense – currently: courtesy letter ➡ proposed: warning letter
 - 2nd Offense – currently: warning letter ➡ proposed: 3-month suspension
 - 3rd Offense – currently: suspended until all turned in ➡ proposed: 1-year suspension
 - Clarify language that convictions of either a federal commercial fishing violation OR convictions of the listed state commercial fishing violations are subject to a revocation of the commercial fishing license for 2 years
 - Add the following to list of convictions requiring suspension of commercial fishing licenses:
 - Violation of any size or daily limit
 - Violation of harvesting fish out of season
 - Violation of fishing in any closed waters
 - Except for invasive carp and scaled rough fish, all other fish harvested by commercial fishing license holders must stay in the vessel or attached to

- the vessel until offloaded once off the water
 - Clarify Lower Ohio River Trophy Catfish harvest permit program suspension language
 - Must harvest 10,000 pounds of catfish from the mainstem of the Ohio River
 - Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity
Attachment D-3
- Establish Committee Meeting Structure, Including Committee Purpose, Oversight, and Responsibilities
Attachment D-4
- Creation of a Habitat Stamp – *Dept. requests to table this item to the next meeting*
 - Amend [301 KAR 3:010](#)-Public Use of Wildlife Management Areas- to require a habitat stamp for users of a WMA
 - Amend [301 KAR 5:022](#) – License, Tag, Registration and Permit Fees- to create fee amounts for residents and non-residents
 - Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity
- Commercial Activity on WMAs Related to Wildlife Recovery – *Dept. requests to table this item for potential consideration at a later date*
 - Amend [301 KAR 3:010](#)-Public Use of Wildlife Management Areas- to allow for commercial activity for wildlife carcass recovery on a WMA. Require an individual to obtain a commercial activity permit for their recovery service
 - Amend [301 KAR 5:022](#)- License, Tag, Registration and Permit Fees- to create fee amounts for a WMA commercial recovery permit
 - Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity
- Overlap of Youth-Only Gun Deer Season and Early Muzzleloader Season
 - CWD Working Group requested revisiting the overlap of these two deer hunting seasons in [301 KAR 2:172](#) – Deer Hunting Seasons, Zones and Requirements
 - Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity
- Establish an annual, weekly, and one-day dog training permit issued by the department and evaluate and designate tract(s) as Dog Training Area(s) at West Kentucky WMA
 - Amend [301 KAR 3:010](#) - Public Use of Wildlife Management Areas
 - Amend [301 KAR 5:022](#) – License, Registration, Tag, and Permit Fees
 - Amend [301 KAR 2:049](#) – Small Game and Furbearer Hunting and Trapping on Public Areas

- Require a Dog Training Permit (annual, weekly, one-day) for all trainers at West Kentucky WMA
 - Require a per-day fee for groups that hold a valid WMA Use Permit for a sporting dog or associated event at West Kentucky WMA
 - Exempt participants from the Dog Training Permit when participating in a department authorized event approved through the WMA Use Permit
 - Establish that unleashed dogs shall be allowed within the boundaries of a designated dog training area year-round, except for one week prior to September 1 through the first weekend of mourning dove season, youth statewide turkey season, opening weekend of statewide turkey season, and if applicable WMA deer quota hunts
- Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity
- Special Youth and Veteran's Waterfowl Seasons Date Change
 - Amend [301 KAR 2:221](#) Waterfowl Seasons and Limits
 - Change the Special Youth Waterfowl Season dates from the Saturday before Thanksgiving and the second Saturday in February to the first consecutive Saturday and Sunday in February
 - Change the Special Veterans and active Military Personnel Waterfowl Season from the Sunday before Thanksgiving and the second Sunday in February to the first consecutive Saturday and Sunday in February
 - Cleanup any other regulations as necessary for conformity

Public Comments²

Set a Date for the Next Quarterly Commission Meeting

Closed Session Discussion Items:

- [26-F-001](#)
- [26-F-002](#)
- [26-W-001](#)

Action Items:

- [26-F-001](#)
- [26-F-002](#)
- [26-W-001](#)

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 8:00 A.M. (EST) in the Schaaf Room at the Salato 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 5pm (Eastern) two days preceding the meeting date will be distributed to all Commission members on the day prior to 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 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.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

DATE: March 20, 2026

Item: Quarterly Financial Statements

Please refer to draft financial statements document

Attachment A-1

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

ACTION ITEM

DATE: June 12, 2026

Item: Minutes from May 18th, 2026, Special Called Commission Meeting

Please refer to draft minutes document

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

ACTION ITEM

DATE: June 12, 2026

Item: Night hunting of bobcats

Bobcats are valuable furbearers both ecologically, as a native wildlife species in Kentucky, and as a game species pursued by hunters and trappers. Trappers value the tradition of trapping and utilization of fur resources. Bobcat pelts have averaged \$100 per hide at peak market conditions in KY, and upwards of \$600-700 or more in western states. Bobcat mounts and tanned hides are popular within the taxidermy market. Additionally, with the emergence and increasing popularity of nighttime coyote hunting, some hunters have expressed interest in pursuing bobcats at night. This additional harvest pressure may be a concern due to increased effectiveness of nighttime hunting methods utilizing thermal imaging equipment. It is important to note this concern has been communicated by predator hunters as well.

Once extirpated or rare in many states, bobcat populations have now recovered to varying degrees throughout their native range. Considering the ongoing and increasing popularity for harvest of bobcats, population monitoring is necessary to ensure sustainable harvest. KDFWR is working to develop a cost-effective method for monitoring bobcat populations in Kentucky using Integrated Population Models. This method incorporates age-at-harvest data (jaw samples collected from hunters and trappers), catch-effort data (collected through voluntary trapper and hunter surveys), and survival (from bobcat telemetry studies). Unfortunately, results obtained to date are statistically invalid due to poor participation of hunters and trappers in the voluntary tooth donation program. KDFWR will try a new incentive program in the future to attempt to increase participation and boost sample sizes. If adequate sample sizes still cannot be obtained, mandatory sample collection may become necessary.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

ACTION ITEM

DATE: June 12, 2026

Item: Modifications of Regulations to Allow Hoop Net and Seine for the Harvest of Invasive Carp

- Amend [301 KAR 1:146](#) – Commercial Fishing Gear

This administrative regulation establishes the legal methods that may be used by commercial fishers to harvest rough fish.

The Fisheries Division recommends the following changes:

- [Add hoop net and seine with construction and method specifications as a legal commercial fishing gear for invasive carp](#)

This modification of the regulation has the potential to increase the harvest efficiency of commercial fishers targeting invasive carp. Fisheries Division staff have been monitoring the use of seines by commercial fishers through the Experimental Commercial Fishing Methods Program and now believe this gear can be allowed for general use by commercial fishers who are fishing under less stringent oversight through the Invasive Carp and Scaled Rough Fish Harvest Program.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

ACTION ITEM

DATE: June 12, 2026

Item: Modifications of Regulations Pertaining to the Harvest of Invasive Carp

- Amend [301 KAR 1:152](#) – Harvest and sale of invasive carp

This administrative regulation establishes the requirements for the harvest and sale of invasive carp beyond the requirements of 301 KAR 1:155.

The Fisheries Division recommends the following changes to the Invasive Carp and Scaled Rough Fish Harvest Program:

- Add reporting of the timeframe of when fishing activities will occur and the commercial fishing gear to be employed to the required call-in information
- Increase harvest ratio of invasive carp to scaled rough fish from 65/35 to 75/25
- Eliminate the waiver of commercial fishing license fees for invasive carp only harvest
- Include hoop net and seine with construction specifications as allowable commercial fishing gear in the Invasive Carp and Scaled Rough Fish Harvest Program and provide methods requirements
- KDFWR to update list of program participants monthly instead of weekly

The Fisheries Division recommends the following changes to the Experimental Commercial Fishing Methods Program:

- Expand the program to any Kentucky waterbody open to commercial fishing per 301 KAR 1:150
- Require Experimental Commercial Fishing Methods Permit within 30 days of selection for the program or else the selection is nullified and the permit forfeited
- Add language that, upon selection, there is a required minimum participation requirement of five experimentation days in the license year or else they are ineligible for the Experimental Commercial Fishing Methods Program the following year

The Fisheries Division recommends the following clarification that applies to both programs:

- Any person whose commercial fishing license has been suspended or revoked in Kentucky or in another state shall not be eligible to be an unlicensed helper in either program or assist in harvesting or transporting fish.

- Remove requirement for daily harvest summary card in either program and require additional data to be reported on monthly commercial fishing report

This modification of the Invasive Carp and Scaled Rough Fish Harvest Program regulations will improve oversight, accountability, and harvest efficiency. The additional fisher call-in information will reduce the enforcement burden when responding to complaints. Increasing the harvest ratio will keep the focus on the harvest of invasive carp. Our commercial fishing license fees are relatively inexpensive (R - \$158.55; NR – \$634.20) so eliminating the waiver of the commercial fishing license fees for invasive carp only harvest will not be too burdensome, and it will ensure that all commercial fishers have an investment in this privilege and are equally motivated to comply with regulations. Including hoop nets and seines as allowable gear will increase the harvest of invasive carp and provide fishers with new methods for harvest.

Expanding the Experimental Fishing Methods Program to any waterbody open to commercial fishing will allow for more flexibility to respond to invasive carp population movement. Permit purchase and experimentation requirements will ensure that we don't have commercial fishers that won't follow through filling limited spots in the program.

Administrative efficiencies will be gained from eliminating the daily harvest summary card requirement and shifting reporting of program participants from weekly to monthly.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

ACTION ITEM

DATE: June 12, 2026

Item: Modifications of Regulations Pertaining to Commercial Fishing Harvest Reporting and Overharvest Protections

- Amend [301 KAR 1:155](#) – Commercial Fishing Requirements

This administrative regulation establishes commercial fishing requirements, protects certain species from overharvest, and regulates the buying and selling of roe-bearing species of rough fish.

The Fisheries Division recommends the following changes to commercial fishing requirements:

- [Clarify the definition of a hoop net](#)
- [Modify regulations and documents incorporated by reference to allow for transition to online application for commercial fishing licenses and permits and reporting of commercial fishing harvest](#)
- [Strengthen the penalties for non-reporting of commercial fish harvest](#)
 - [1st Offense – currently: courtesy letter → proposed: warning letter](#)
 - [2nd Offense – currently: warning letter → proposed: 3-month suspension](#)
 - [3rd Offense – currently: suspended until all turned in → proposed: 1-year suspension](#)
- [Clarify language that convictions of either a federal commercial fishing violation OR convictions of the listed state commercial fishing violations are subject to a revocation of the commercial fishing license for 2 years](#)
- [Add the following to list of convictions requiring suspension of commercial fishing licenses:](#)
 - [Violation of any size or daily limit](#)
 - [Violation of harvesting fish out of season](#)
 - [Violation of fishing in any closed waters](#)
- [Except for invasive carp and scaled rough fish, all other fish harvested by commercial fishing license holders must stay in the vessel or attached to the vessel until offloaded once off the water](#)
- [Clarify Lower Ohio River Trophy Catfish harvest permit program suspension language](#)
 - [Must harvest 10,000 pounds of catfish from the mainstem of the Ohio River](#)

The transition to online application for commercial fishing licenses and permits and reporting of commercial fishing harvest online will improve administrative efficiencies for both KDFWR staff and commercial fishers. Strengthening penalties for non-reporting will hopefully decrease the persistent offenders. Adding the additional regulation violations that are subject to commercial fishing license suspension will close loopholes identified in recent law enforcement actions. Requiring commercial fishers to keep fish harvested (except invasive carp) in the vessel or attached to the vessel until off the water eliminates activities that facilitated illegal harvest.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

DISCUSSION ITEM

DATE: June 12, 2026

Item: Establish Committee Meeting structure, including committee purpose, oversight, and responsibilities

- Draft Language for consideration:

The Commission shall establish three (3) standing Committees to aid in its mission pursuant to KRS 150.023. Committees conduct official business on the part of the Commission. As such, all Committee meetings shall be open meetings and shall comply with the same notice requirements as regular commission meetings. See KRS 150.023 and KRS 61.820.

The 3 standing Committees shall be the (1) Lands and Wildlife Committee, (2) Licensing, Operations and Public Outreach Committee and (3) Enforcement, Boating and Fisheries Committee.

Business items eligible for committee review shall originate from the Commission agenda and the Committee shall only address matters listed on the publicly noticed agenda. Assignment of a business item to a committee shall be made by majority vote of the Commission. Business items referred to by a committee for additional input shall be designated as such only at the time they appear on the Commission agenda.

Each Committee shall consist of no more than three (3) Commission members and shall not include a quorum of the Commission. No Commission member shall serve on more than one (1) Committee at any given time; provided, however, that if the number of eligible sitting Commission members is fewer than nine (9), a Commission member may serve on no more than two (2) Committees concurrently. Committee members shall be nominated by Commission members other than the Commission Chair and shall be appointed upon approval by a majority vote of a quorum of the Commission. Committee appointments shall occur annually at the second quarterly meeting of the Commission. Each appointment shall be for a term of one (1) year.

The Chair of each Committee shall be elected by a majority vote of the Commission. In the event of a tie vote, the Commission Chair shall cast the deciding vote. No Commission member shall serve as Chair of more than one (1) Committee at any given time. The Commission Chair shall not serve as a Committee Chair.

Committees shall be composed solely of Commission members; however, a Committee may invite agency staff or members of the public to provide information or advisory input regarding matters properly before the Committee.

The names of Committees and the Commission members assigned thereto shall be published on the agency's official website. Committee meeting agendas and minutes shall likewise be made publicly available on the agency's website.

Anyone wishing to address a Committee of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission may provide public comments for the Committee meeting in the same manner as detailed for Commission meetings.