



## Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

### Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission recommends deer zone change for Simpson County to match surrounding counties

Board also proposed amendments to fisheries regulations

*NOTE: The following is a summary of action taken by the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission at its video teleconference meeting on May 25, 2023. Official meeting minutes will be reviewed at a future meeting. 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.*

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (June 5, 2023)** — In a quarterly meeting held via video teleconference on May 25, the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission recommended a change to Simpson County zoning for deer hunting from Zone 3 to Zone 2.

Currently, all counties surrounding Simpson County are Zone 2. Designating Simpson County as Zone 2 will provide more opportunity for hunters in that county. This change will still allow hunters to harvest a maximum of four antlerless deer, but it will allow more of those deer to be taken via firearms.

The commission also voted unanimously to:

- Update and clarify the state administrative regulation ([301 KAR 1:122](#)) that establishes the species of aquatic life that are prohibited in the commonwealth.
- Amend the state administrative regulation ([301 KAR 1:115](#)) that establishes the requirements and permitting applicable to propagation of aquatic organisms.
- Amend the state administrative regulation ([301 KAR 1:125](#)) that provides for control of the transportation of fish, fish eggs, live bait and other aquatic organisms into, through and within the state to protect the native fish populations.
- Define “gill net” and “trammel net” through an amendment to the state administrative regulation ([301 KAR 1:146](#)) that establishes the legal methods that may be used by commercial fishers to harvest rough fish.

- Define a new lower boundary on Barren River for existing special regulations for walleye and smallmouth bass due to the imminent removal of Lock and Dam 1, and add an aggregate limit on blue catfish and channel catfish at Yatesville Lake through an amendment to the state administrative regulation ([301 KAR 1:201](#)) that establishes fish size limits, daily creel limits and possession limits for fishing.
- Add special regulations for hand-grabbing of catfish at Yatesville Lake through an amendment to the state administrative regulation ([301 KAR 1:410](#)) that establishes the procedures for taking sport and rough fish by nontraditional fishing methods.

In addition, the commission voted unanimously to continue pursuing the acquisition of two parcels of land as part of the department's Kentucky Wetland and Stream Mitigation Program. The commission also decided to continue discussion of licensing requirements and fees for commercial guides at its next scheduled meeting to allow more time to evaluate staff recommendations and receive public comment.

A [replay](#) of the live video teleconference meeting is available on demand on Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's YouTube channel.

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 planned commission meeting is Friday, June 16, in Frankfort.

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