

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE  
KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF  
FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES**

**Made Pursuant To  
KRS 150.152**

**For the Fiscal Year Ended  
June 30, 2024**



**ALLISON BALL  
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
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**ALLISON BALL**  
**AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

*Independent Auditor's Report*

Kentucky Legislature's Interim Joint Committee on Natural Resources and Energy  
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission  
Rich Storm, Commissioner  
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

***Report on the Audit of the Financial Statement***

***Opinion***

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Revenue Sources - Modified Cash Basis of the Fish and Game Fund of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statement, which collectively comprise KDFWR's basic financial statement as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the revenue sources of the Fish and Game Fund, as of June 30, 2024, thereof for the year then ended in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting described in Note 2.

***Basis for Opinion***

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement section of our report. We are required to be independent of KDFWR and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

***Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting***

We draw attention to Note 2 of the financial statement, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statement is prepared on a modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

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Kentucky Legislature's Interim Joint Committee  
on Natural Resources and Energy  
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission  
Rich Storm, Commissioner  
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

### ***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statement***

KDFWR's management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting described in Note 2, and for determining that the modified cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statement in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statement.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of KDFWR's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statement.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about KDFWR's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Kentucky Legislature's Interim Joint Committee  
on Natural Resources and Energy  
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission  
Rich Storm, Commissioner  
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

***Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements***

We have also issued our report dated April 17, 2025, on our audit of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' (KDFWR) compliance with KRS Chapter 45A and KRS 150.0242, as required by KRS 150.152, for the year ended June 30, 2024. The purpose of that report is to express an opinion on KDFWR's compliance based on our audit.

***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 17, 2025 on our consideration of KDFWR's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the KDFWR's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Respectfully Submitted,



Allison Ball  
Auditor of Public Accounts  
Frankfort, Ky

April 17, 2025





## **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES  
STATEMENT OF REVENUE SOURCES – MODIFIED CASH BASIS  
FISH AND GAME FUND**

**For The Year Ended June 30, 2024**

Revenues:

Hunting & Fishing Licenses	\$ 36,215,157
Motor Boat Registration Fees and Dealer Licenses	5,707,859
Fines, Fees, Rentals and General Sales	1,163,214
Interest Income	1,943,736
Miscellaneous Revenues	1,601,615
Program Income	264,132
Proceeds From Asset Disposition	458,059
Fish and Game Law Enforcement Fines	138,039
Private Grants, Donations, and Gifts	444,294
Fish and Wildlife Educational Program	2,251
Fish and Wildlife Hunter for the Hungry	25

Total Revenues

\$ 47,938,381
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statement.

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## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT**



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**JUNE 30, 2024**

**Note 1 - Organization**

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) is an agency of the Commonwealth of Kentucky with the mission to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife resources and provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, and other wildlife related activities. KRS 150.152 requires an annual audit of KDFWR, specifically to: a) examine the separate revenue streams of each account within KDFWR's Fish and Game Fund; b) to disaggregate and report the revenues and expenditures, by type, within the Program Income Fund of the Fish and Game Fund; c) identify internal controls, weaknesses, operating inefficiencies, and make recommendations for improvements; and, d) examine all department procurement procedures and procurements made by the department since the previous annual statewide audit to ensure compliance with the requirements of KRS Chapter 45A and 150.0242; and e) submit a written report to the Interim Joint Committee on Natural Resources and Energy in conjunction with the release of the statewide single audit of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission (Commission) established under KRS 150.022 oversees KDFWR's operations and is made up of nine members appointed by the Governor, one from each commission district. As the oversight authority of KDFWR, the Commission advises the commissioner to take actions as may be beneficial to the department and in the interest of wildlife and conservation of natural resources.

**Note 2 - Basis of Presentation and Accounting Policies**

**Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying financial statement has been prepared on a cash basis of accounting modified by the application of KRS 45.229, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Under the cash basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when cash is received, and expenditures are recorded when paid. The application of KRS 45.229 provides that for a period of thirty (30) days after the close of any fiscal year (FY), warrants may be drawn against available balances of appropriations made for that fiscal year, for the payment of expenditures incurred during the year or in fulfillment of contracts properly made during the year but for no other purpose.

**Revenue Recognition**

As noted above, revenues under the cash basis of accounting are recognized when cash is received. The primary sources of revenue for the funds presented are hunting and fishing license fees and boat registration fees for the Fish and Game Fund. Total revenues were \$47,938,381 in FY 2024, an increase of \$3,887,343 from \$44,051,038 in FY 2023.

**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**JUNE 30, 2024**  
**(Continued)**

**Note 3 - Financial Reporting**

KRS 150.152 requires the examination of the separate revenue streams of each account within the Fish and Game Fund, as well as a disaggregation and report on the revenues and expenditures, by type, within the Program Income Fund of the Fish and Game Fund. The Program Income Fund is closed. This report presents:

Statement of Revenue Sources - Modified Cash Basis for the Fish and Game Fund

This statement presents the separate revenue streams of the Fish and Game Fund. Revenues are categorized into major sources, and further detailed by license type or grantor, when possible. As noted above, the statement is presented on the cash basis of accounting modified by the application of KRS 45.229, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

**Note 4 – Cash and Cash Equivalents**

The cash receipts of KDFWR are deposited with the Commonwealth's State Treasury. The Commonwealth's Office of Financial Management is responsible for investing the funds of KDFWR as part of the Commonwealth's investment pool. See the Commonwealth's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for disclosure of the legally authorized investments and the credit risk classifications of the investment pool.

In accordance with applicable statutes, KDFWR is to receive interest on the available balances accumulated from the collection of fees. Interest is received pro-rata, based on the average balances of KDFWR.

**Note 5 – Risk Management**

KDFWR is exposed to various risks to loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; and errors and omissions. KDFWR utilized the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Risk Management Funds to cover exposure to these potential losses. The Commonwealth's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report should be referred to for additional disclosures related to the Risk Management Fund.



**REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON  
COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
*GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***





ALLISON BALL  
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And  
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of Financial  
Statements Performed In Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*

Independent Auditor's Report

Kentucky Legislature's Interim Joint Committee  
on Natural Resources and Energy  
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission  
Rich Storm, Commissioner  
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statement of the Statement of Revenue Sources – Modified Cash Basis for the Fish and Game Fund of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statement, which collectively comprise KDFWR's basic financial statement, and have issued our report thereon dated April 17, 2025.

***Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting***

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statement, we considered the KDFWR's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the KDFWR's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the KDFWR's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.



Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting  
And On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of Financial Statements  
Performed In Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*  
(Continued)

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

***Report on Compliance and Other Matters***

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the KDFWR's financial statement is free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statement. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

***Purpose of this Report***

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Respectfully Submitted,



Allison Ball

Auditor of Public Accounts

Frankfort, Ky

April 17, 2025

**REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS  
AND INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE**





**ALLISON BALL**  
**AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

Report On Compliance With Applicable Requirements And Internal Control Over Compliance

**Independent Auditor's Report**

Kentucky Legislature's Interim Joint Committee on Natural Resources and Energy  
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission  
Rich Storm, Commissioner  
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

***Report on Compliance***

***Opinion on KRS Chapter 45A and KRS 150.0242***

We have audited the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' (KDFWR) compliance with KRS Chapter 45A and KRS 150.0242, as required by KRS 150.152, for the year ended June 30, 2024.

In our opinion, KDFWR complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that are applicable to KDFWR for the year ended June 30, 2024.

***Basis for Opinion***

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the requirements of KRS 150.152. Our responsibilities under those standards and KRS 150.152 are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of KDFWR and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of KDFWR's compliance with the requirements referred to above.

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Report On Compliance With Applicable Requirements  
And Internal Control Over Compliance  
(Continued)

***Responsibilities of Management for Compliance***

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to KDFWR.

***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on KDFWR's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, *Governmental Auditing Standards* and KRS 150.152 will always detect a material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the requirements referred to above is considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgement made by a reasonable user of the report on whether KDFWR complied with the requirements as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards* and KRS 150.152 we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding KDFWR's compliance with the requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of KDFWR's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with KRS Chapter 45A and KRS 150.0242, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of KDFWR's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.



Report On Compliance With Applicable Requirements  
And Internal Control Over Compliance  
(Continued)

***Report on Internal Control Over Compliance***

A *deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance on a timely basis. A *material weakness* in internal control over compliance is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a compliance requirement will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the “Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance” section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that have not been identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of KRS 150.152. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Respectfully Submitted,



Allison Ball

Auditor of Public Accounts

Frankfort, Ky

April 17, 2025