

**TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET**  
**Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources**  
**(Amendment)**

**301 KAR 2:221. Waterfowl seasons and limits.**

RELATES TO: KRS 150.010(45), 150.025(1), 150.305(1), 150.330, 150.340(1), (3), 150.990

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 150.025(1), 150.360, 150.600, 50 C.F.R. 20, 21

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT: The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, pursuant to statutory authority to promulgate administrative regulations to carry out the provisions of KRS Chapter 150 as established in KRS 150.025 and as an independent department of state government within the meaning of KRS Chapter 12 as established in KRS 150.021(1), promulgated by the Commissioner with approval of the Commission in accordance with KRS 150.010(1), does hereby certify this administrative regulation is promulgated in compliance with Section 8 of 2025 RS HB6.

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 150.025(1) authorizes the department to promulgate administrative regulations to establish open seasons for the taking of wildlife and to regulate bag limits. KRS 150.360 authorizes the department to restrict methods of taking wildlife. KRS 150.600 authorizes the department to regulate the taking of waterfowl on public and private land. This administrative regulation establishes requirements for the taking of waterfowl within reasonable limits and within the frameworks established by 50 C.F.R. Parts 20 and 21.

**Section 1. Definitions.**

- (1) "Active military personnel" means a member of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty other than for training.
- (2) "Adult" means a person who is at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- (3) "Dark geese" means Canada geese, cackling geese, white-fronted geese, or brants.
- (4) "Light geese" is defined by KRS 150.010(20).
- (5) "Light geese conservation order" is defined by KRS 150.010(21).
- (6) "Veteran" means a person who served in the active military, naval, air, or space service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.
- (7) "Waterfowl" is defined by KRS 150.010(45).
- (8) "Youth" means a person who has not reached his or her 16th birthday.

Section 2. Except as established in 301 KAR 2:222 or 2:225, a person shall not hunt waterfowl except during the seasons established in this administrative regulation.

**Section 3. Season Dates.**

- (1) The duck, coot, and merganser season shall:
  - (a) Begin on Thanksgiving Day for four (4) consecutive days; and
  - (b) Be from December 7 through January 31.
- (2) The dark geese season shall be from Thanksgiving Day through February 15.
- (3) The light geese season shall be from Thanksgiving Day through February 15.
- (4) The light geese conservation order season shall be from February 16 through March 31.
- (5) A person shall not hunt light or dark geese in:
  - (a) The areas of Laurel River Lake as posted by sign; or
  - (b) Cave Run Lake and the public land inside the boundary formed by Highways 801, 1274, 36, 211, US 60, and Highway 826.

#### Section 4. Ballard Zone.

- (1) The Ballard Zone includes the portion of Ballard County north and west of:
  - (a) The Ballard-McCracken County line to State Road 358;
  - (b) State Road 358 to US 60;
  - (c) US 60 to the city limits of Wickliffe; and
  - (d) The city limits of Wickliffe to the center of the Mississippi River.
- (2) In the Ballard Zone, a person hunting waterfowl shall:
  - (a) Not hunt or establish a blind within:
    1. 100 yards of another blind; or
    2. Fifty (50) yards of a property line; and
  - (b) Not possess more than one (1) uncased or loaded shotgun while in a blind.
- (3) The requirements of subsection (1) of this section shall not apply if the Light Geese Conservation Order, as established in Section 3 of this administrative regulation, is the only waterfowl season open, excluding falconry seasons.

#### Section 5. Bag and Possession Limits.

- (1) Ducks. The daily limit shall be six (6), which shall not include more than:
  - (a) Four (4) mallards;
  - (b) Two (2) hen mallards;
  - (c) Three (3) wood ducks;
  - (d) Two (2) black ducks;
  - (e) Two (2) redheads;
  - (f) Three (3) pintails ;
  - (g) One (1) scaup beginning Thanksgiving Day for four (4) consecutive days and December 7 through December 17;
  - (h) Two (2) scaup beginning on December 18 through January 31;
  - (i) One (1) mottled duck; or
  - (j) Two (2) canvasbacks.
- (2) Coot. The daily limit shall be fifteen (15).
- (3) Merganser. The daily limit shall be five (5), which shall not include more than two (2) hooded mergansers.
- (4) Dark geese. The daily limit shall be five (5), which shall not include more than:
  - (a) Three (3) Canada geese or cackling geese, in combination;
  - (b) Two (2) white-fronted geese; or
  - (c) One (1) brant.
- (5) Light geese. The daily limit shall be twenty (20), except that there shall not be a limit during the light geese conservation order season.
- (6) The possession limit shall be triple the daily limit, except that there shall not be a light geese possession limit.

#### Section 6. Shooting Hours. A person shall not hunt waterfowl except from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise until:

- (1) Sunset, except as established in 301 KAR 2:222; or
- (2) One-half (1/2) hour after sunset if hunting light geese during the light geese conservation order season.

#### Section 7. Falconry Waterfowl Season and Limits.

- (1) The season for waterfowl shall be from Thanksgiving Day through the last Sunday in February.
- (2) The daily limit shall be three (3) waterfowl.
- (3) The possession limit shall be nine (9) waterfowl.

#### Section 8. Permit for the Light Geese Conservation Order Season.

(1) A person hunting light geese during the light geese conservation order season shall first obtain a free permit by completing the online Snow Geese Conservation Order Permit process on the department's Web site at fw.ky.gov.

(2) A person hunting light geese during the light geese conservation order season shall submit a Snow Geese Conservation Order Permit Survey to the department by April 10.

#### Section 9. Special Youth Waterfowl Season.

(1) For the waterfowl season, the Saturday before Thanksgiving and the second Saturday in February shall be exclusive to youth hunters.

(2) A youth hunter shall be accompanied by an adult.

(3) If hunting, youth hunters shall comply with the provisions of 301 KAR 2:221 and 301 KAR 2:222 and also hunt on the applicable additional dates established in this administrative regulation.

(4) An adult accompanying a youth who is waterfowl hunting shall:

(a) Remain in a position to take immediate control of the youth's firearm;

(b) Not hunt ducks, coots, mergansers, and gallinules; or

(c) Not be required to possess a hunting license or waterfowl permit if he or she is not hunting.

#### Section 10. A Special Veterans and active Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Season.

(1) For the waterfowl season, the Sunday before Thanksgiving and the second Sunday in February shall be exclusive to veterans or active military personnel hunters.

(2) If hunting, veteran or active-duty military hunters shall comply with the provisions of 301 KAR 2:221 and 301 KAR 2:222 and also hunt on the applicable additional dates established in this administrative regulation.

(3) While in the field during the special veterans and active military personnel waterfowl hunting season, waterfowl hunters shall either have a state hunting license showing veteran status or carry proof of their veteran or active military personnel status. Acceptable forms of proof shall be a current military identification card, a VA-issued identification card, state issued driver's license or identification card with a veteran's designation, or an original or copy of a DD Form 214, DD Form 215, NGB Form 22, NGB Form 22-a, or DD Form 256.

#### Section 11. Incorporation by Reference.

(1) The following material is incorporated by reference:

(a) "Snow Geese Conservation Order Permit", April 2022; and

(b) "Snow Geese Conservation Order Permit Survey", April 2022.

(2) This material may be inspected, copied, or obtained, subject to applicable copyright law, at the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or online at:

(a) <https://app.fw.ky.gov/snowgoosesurvey/snowgoose.aspx> for the "Snow Geese Conservation Permit"; and

(b) <https://app.fw.ky.gov/snowgoosesurvey/snowgoosesurvey.aspx> for the "Snow Geese Conservation Order Permit Survey.

(301 KAR 002:221. 21 Ky.R. 1797; eff. 2-22-1995; Am. 22 Ky.R. 1673; eff. 5-16-1996; 23 Ky.R. 2842; eff. 3-12-1997; 24 Ky.R. 1914; 2358; eff. 5-13-1998; 25 Ky.R. 1695; 2137; eff. 3-10-1999; 27 Ky.R. 212; 753; eff. 8-4-2000; 3147; eff. 7-16-2001; 28 Ky.R. 1907; eff. 4-15-2002; 29 Ky.R. 2134; 2453; eff. 4-11-2003; 30 Ky.R. 989; eff. 1-5-2004; 31 Ky.R. 1346; 3-11-2005; 1147; eff. 3-3-2006; 33 Ky.R. 1625; eff. 3-9-2007; 34 Ky.R. 1535; eff. 3-7-2008; 35 Ky.R. 1876; eff. 4-3-2009; 36 Ky.R. 1316; 1911; eff. 3-5-2010; 37 Ky.R. 1338; eff. 2-4-2011; 38 Ky.R. 1044; eff. 2-3-12; 39 Ky.R. 1302; eff. 3-8-2013; 40 Ky.R. 1354; 1725; eff. 3-7-2014; 41 Ky.R. 1444; eff. 3-6-2015; 42 Ky.R. 1921; eff. 3-4-2016; 42 Ky.R. 2937; 43 Ky.R. 202; eff. 8-4-2016; 43 Ky.R. 2032; eff. 7-6-2017; 44 Ky.R. 2374; 45 Ky.R. 21; eff. 7-

5-2018; 45 Ky.R. 3491; eff. 8-20-2019; 47 Ky.R. 1253, 1937; eff. 6-3-2021; 48 Ky.R. 2869; 49 Ky.R. 333; eff. 8-18-2022; 49 Ky.R. 333, 1348, 1763; eff. 5-30-2023; 51 Ky.R. 1955; eff. 9-18-2025.)

*Approved by the Fish and Wildlife Commission:  
RICH STORM, Commissioner*

APPROVED BY AGENCY: April 24, 2025

FILED WITH LRC: April 28, 2025 at 11:51 a.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD:** A public hearing on this administrative regulation shall be held on July 31, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., at KDFWR Administration Building, 1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601. Individuals interested in being heard at this hearing shall notify this agency in writing by five workdays prior to the hearing, of their intent to attend. If no notification of intent to attend the hearing was received by that date, the hearing may be cancelled. A transcript of the public hearing will not be made unless a written request for a transcript is made. If you do not wish to be heard at the public hearing, you may submit written comments on the proposed administrative regulation. Written comments shall be accepted through July 31, 2025. Send written notification of intent to be heard at the public hearing or written comments on the proposed administrative regulation to the contact person.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Jenny Gilbert, Legislative Liaison, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, 1 Sportsman's Lane, (502) 564-3400, fax: (502) 564-0506, email: [fwpubliccomments@ky.gov](mailto:fwpubliccomments@ky.gov)