

TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET
Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
(New Administrative Regulation)

301 KAR 3:160. Reciprocal agreements regarding fishing and hunting.

RELATES TO: KRS 150.330, 150.340, 150.440, 150.445, 150.450, 150.470

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 150.025(1)(h), 150.170(8)

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)(h) authorizes the department to promulgate administrative regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of the chapter. KRS 150.170(8) authorizes the department to enter into reciprocal agreements with other states so that a person holding a resident or nonresident fishing license, or a resident or nonresident hunting license issued by the state shall be permitted to perform the acts authorized by the license upon certain contiguous waters and land areas adjacent to the common boundaries. This administrative regulation identifies all current reciprocal agreements established between Kentucky and bordering states.

Section 1. Fishing Agreements.

(1) Persons fishing in Dale Hollow Lake, the Big South Fork portion of the Cumberland River, and a portion of the Kentucky Lake shall comply with the sport fishing requirements in the reciprocal sport fishing license agreement with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency incorporated by reference in this administrative regulation.

(2) Persons fishing in the Mississippi River shall comply with the sport fishing requirements in the reciprocal sport fishing license agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation incorporated by reference in this administrative regulation.

(3) Persons fishing in the Ohio River bordering Illinois or Indiana shall comply with both the sport and commercial fishing requirements in the reciprocal fishing license agreements with the Illinois and Indiana Departments of Natural Resources incorporated by reference in this administrative regulation.

(4) Persons fishing in the Ohio River bordering Ohio shall comply with the sport fishing requirements in the reciprocal sport fishing license agreement with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources incorporated by reference in this administrative regulation.

(5) Persons fishing in the Big Sandy and Tug Fork rivers shall comply with the sport fishing requirements in the reciprocal agreement with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources incorporated by reference in this administrative regulation.

Section 2. Hunting Agreements.

(1) Persons hunting migratory birds on the Ohio River bordering Indiana or Ohio shall comply with the reciprocal hunting license agreements with the Indiana and Ohio Departments of Natural Resources incorporated by reference in the administrative regulation.

(2) Persons hunting on the Big Sandy and Tug Fork rivers shall comply with the requirements in the reciprocal agreement with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources incorporated by reference in this administrative regulation.

Section 3. Incorporation by Reference.

- (1) The following material is incorporated by reference:
 - (a) "Reciprocal Sport Fishing License Agreement between Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency", 2025 Edition;
 - (b) "Reciprocal Sport Fishing License Agreement between Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and Missouri Department of Conservation", 2025 Edition;
 - (c) "Reciprocal Fishing License Agreement between Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and Illinois Department of Natural Resources", 2025 Edition;
 - (d) "Reciprocal Fishing License Agreement between Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and Indiana Department of Natural Resources", 2025 Edition;
 - (e) "Reciprocal Sport Fishing License Agreement between Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and Ohio Department of Natural Resources", 2025 Edition;
 - (f) "Reciprocal Agreement between Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and West Virginia Division of Natural Resources", 2025 Edition;
 - (g) "Reciprocal Hunting License Agreement between Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and Indiana Department of Natural Resources", 2025 Edition; and
 - (h) "Reciprocal Hunting License Agreement between Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and Ohio Department of Natural Resources", 2025 Edition.
- (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://fw.ky.gov/Documents/TN-KY-Reciprocal-Fish-License-Agreement.pdf> for the "Reciprocal Sport Fishing License Agreement between Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency";
 - (b) <https://fw.ky.gov/Documents/MO-KY-Reciprocal-Fish-License-Agreement.pdf> for the "Reciprocal Sport Fishing License Agreement between Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and Missouri Department of Conservation";
 - (c) <https://fw.ky.gov/Documents/IL-KY-Reciprocal-Fish-License-Agreement.pdf> for the "Reciprocal Fishing License Agreement between Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and Illinois Department of Natural Resources";
 - (d) <https://fw.ky.gov/Documents/IN-KY-Reciprocal-Fish-License-Agreement.pdf> for the "Reciprocal Fishing License Agreement between Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and Indiana Department of Natural Resources";
 - (e) <https://fw.ky.gov/Documents/OH-KY-Reciprocal-Fish-License-Agreement.pdf> for the "Reciprocal Sport Fishing License Agreement between Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and Ohio Department of Natural Resources";
 - (f) <https://fw.ky.gov/Documents/WV-KY-Reciprocal-Fish-Hunt-License-Agreement.pdf> for the "Reciprocal Agreement between Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and West Virginia Division of Natural Resources";
 - (g) <https://fw.ky.gov/Documents/IN-KY-Reciprocal-Hunt-License-Agreement.pdf> for the "Reciprocal Hunting License Agreement between Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and Indiana Department of Natural Resources"; and
 - (h) <https://fw.ky.gov/Documents/OH-KY-Reciprocal-Hunt-License-Agreement.pdf> for the "Reciprocal Hunting License Agreement between Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and Ohio Department of Natural Resources".

RICH STORM, Commissioner

APPROVED BY AGENCY: June 11, 2025
FILED WITH LRC: June 12, 2025 at 11:45 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD: A public hearing on this administrative regulation shall be held on August 28, 2025, at 10:00 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 August 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, phone (502) 564-3400, fax (502) 564-0506, email fwpubliccomments@ky.gov.