

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

**301 KAR 4:070. Scientific and educational collecting permits.**

RELATES TO: KRS 150.010, 150.170, 150.180, 150.195, 150.990

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 150.025(1), 150.183, 150.275, 50 C.F.R. 17

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 seasons for the taking of fish and wildlife, to regulate bag limits, creel limits, and methods of take, and to make these requirements apply to a limited area. KRS 150.183(3) authorizes the department to establish the terms and conditions for allowing the importation, transportation, possession, or sale of endangered species. KRS 150.275 authorizes the department to issue permits to persons for commercial nuisance wildlife control, and scientific or educational purposes. 50 C.F.R. Part 17 establishes the requirements for federally protected species. This administrative regulation establishes the requirements for the issuance and use of scientific and educational collecting permits.

Section 1. Definitions.

(1) "Agent of the state" means a status that is granted by the department to an individual working on a project on behalf of the department.

(2) "Collected", "Collecting", or "Collection" means any sampling activity that removes, even temporarily, any protected wildlife from the wild in Kentucky.

(3) "Educational collection permit" means a permit issued by the department to an individual for use in:

- (a) The instruction of students; or
- (b) A university-related research project.

(4) "Federally protected species" means any species:

- (a) Listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as:
  - 1. Threatened; or
  - 2. Endangered; or
- (b) Any bird protected under the:
  - 1. Migratory Bird Treaty Act; or
  - 2. Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

(5) "Permit holder" means a person who possesses one (1) of the following two (2) valid permits issued by the department:

- (a) An educational collection permit; or
- (b) A scientific collection permit.

(6) "Scientific collection permit" means a permit issued by the department to an individual for the purpose of conducting a scientific study for which remuneration is received.

(7) "Watershed" means an 8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code assigned by the United States Geological Survey.

Section 2. Permit Issuance and Requirements.

- (1) A person shall obtain the applicable collection permit prior to collecting any protected wildlife species in Kentucky, except that a representative of the department who is engaged in collecting wildlife in an official capacity shall not be required to possess a collection permit.
- (2) A person shall:
  - (a) Apply for an educational or scientific collection permit on a Scientific and Educational Wildlife Collection Permit Application form provided by the department; and
  - (b) Submit to the department the appropriate permit fee as referenced at <https://fw.ky.gov/Licenses/Pages/Fees.aspx> and established in 301 KAR 5:022. along with the completed application.
- (3) The department shall only issue a scientific or educational permit to a person who:
  - (a) Has completed a college course in species taxonomy or species identification for the species group to be collected;
  - (b) Has one (1) year of experience in collecting the species group to be collected; or
  - (c) Submits a signed letter from a person qualified to be a scientific or educational permit holder attesting to the applicant's ability in species identification.
- (4) A permit holder shall possess a valid federal permit or a department-issued agent of the state letter if collecting a:
  - (a) Federally protected species;
  - (b) Bat species;
  - (c) Mussel species; or
  - (d) Fish species in a watershed known to contain a federally protected fish species.
- (5) A permit holder shall complete a Project Proposal Form for every project involving the sampling or collecting of:
  - (a) A federally protected species;
  - (b) A bat;
  - (c) A mussel; or
  - (d) Fish in a watershed known to contain a federally protected fish species.
- (6) A permit holder shall submit to the department each Project Proposal Form at least fifteen (15) days in advance of the project.
- (7) A permit holder shall comply with all requirements pertaining to a federally protected species pursuant to 50 C.F.R. Part 17.
- (8) A permit holder shall:
  - (a) Not intentionally kill a federally protected species; and
  - (b) Report any inadvertent killing of a federally protected species by:
    1. Calling the department's Wildlife Diversity Program at 1-800-858-1549 within twenty-four (24) hours of the kill; and
    2. Submitting all dead specimens to the department within seven (7) days of taking.
- (9) A permit holder shall not use a scientific or educational collection permit in lieu of a:
  - (a) Hunting license;
  - (b) Fishing license; or
  - (c) Trapping license.
- (10) While collecting specimens, a permit holder shall carry a:
  - (a) Valid scientific or educational collection permit; or
  - (b) Photocopy of a valid collection permit.
- (11) A permit holder who is collecting wildlife that will not be killed shall release the wildlife at the capture location.

### Section 3. Reporting Requirements, Permit Renewal, and Revocation.

- (1) A permit holder shall submit to the department all wildlife collection data for the previous calendar year:

- (a) By January 15;
  - (b) Electronically on the department's Web site at fw.ky.gov; and
  - (c) Prior to renewal of a collection permit.
- (2) A permit holder who is submitting annual collection data on the department's Web site shall complete the data submittal process in its entirety.
- (3) The department shall not renew a scientific or educational collection permit until the permit holder has submitted the previous year's collection data via the electronic data submittal process on the department's Web site.
- (4) A scientific or educational permit shall be revoked or denied by the department if the permit holder:
- (a) In the last year has been convicted of a violation of:
    - 1. This administrative regulation;
    - 2. A federal regulation involving the collection of federally protected species pursuant to 50 C.F.R. Part 17; or
    - 3. Another state's regulation or law pertaining to the collection of protected wildlife;or
  - (b) Falsifies the permit application.
- (5) A person who has had a scientific or educational collection permit revoked shall be ineligible to apply for a period of one (1) year.
- (6) A person who has had a permit denied or revoked may request an administrative hearing pursuant to KRS Chapter 13B.
- (7) A request for a 13B hearing shall be in writing and postmarked or delivered in person to the department no later than thirty (30) days after notification of the denial or revocation.

#### Section 4. Incorporation by Reference.

- (1) The following material is incorporated by reference:
    - (a) "Project Proposal Form", 2012 edition; and
    - (b) "Scientific and Educational Wildlife Collection Permit Application", 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, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or found online at:
    - (a) <https://fw.ky.gov/Wildlife/Documents/scieduproposalform.pdf> for the "Project Proposal Form";
    - (b) <https://fw.ky.gov/Licenses/Documents/Scientific-Edu-Collection-Permit.pdf> for the "Scientific and Educational Wildlife Collection Permit Application".
- (15 Ky.R. 895; Am. 1278; eff. 11-23-1988; 31 Ky.R. 844; 1079; eff. 1-4-2005; 35 Ky.R. 352; 796; eff. 10-8-2008; 39 Ky.R. 841; eff. 1-4-2013; 48 Ky.R. 904; eff. 3-1-2022; 52 Ky.R. 295; eff. 11-6-2025.)

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

APPROVED BY AGENCY: July 1, 2025

FILED WITH LRC: July 1, 2025 at 2:05 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD: A public hearing on this administrative regulation shall be held on September 30, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., at KDFWR Administration Building, 1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky 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 September 30, 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](mailto:fwpubliccomments@ky.gov).