

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

**301 KAR 6:015. Boat and motor restrictions.**

RELATES TO: KRS 150.090, 150.625, 150.990, 235.010(4), 235.990

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 150.620, 235.280

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 and KRS Chapter 235 as established in KRS 150.025, KRS 235.280 and KRS 235.290 and as an independent department of state government within the meaning of KRS Chapter 12 as established in KRS 150.021(1) and KRS 235.030, promulgated by the Commissioner with approval of the Commission in accordance with KRS 235.280 and 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 150.620 authorizes the department to promulgate administrative regulations governing lands and waters the department has acquired. KRS 235.280 requires the department, with approval of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission, to promulgate administrative regulations to govern the fair, reasonable, equitable, and safe use of all waters of this state. This administrative regulation establishes size limits of boats and motors on small lakes for safety reasons and to minimize interference with other users.

Section 1. ~~[Definition. "Idle speed" means the slowest possible speed at which maneuverability can be maintained.]~~

~~[Section 2.]~~

(1) On a lake established in subsection (2) of this section, a person shall not operate a:

- (a) House boat;
- (b) Monohull boat with a center-line length exceeding twenty-two (22) feet; or
- (c) Pontoon boat with a float or decking exceeding twenty-two (22) feet, except on:
  - 1. Guist Creek Lake, where a pontoon boat with a float or decking up to twenty-four (24) feet or a monohull boat with a center-line length up to twenty-four (24) feet and seating for at least eight (8) passengers may be operated; or
  - 2. A lake established in clauses a. through c. of this subparagraph, where a pontoon boat with a float or decking up to thirty (30) feet or a monohull boat with a center-line length up to twenty-four (24) feet and seating for at least eight (8) passengers may be operated:
    - a. Cedar Creek Lake;
    - b. Lake Beshear; or
    - c. Lake Malone.

(2) List of lakes:

- (a) Ballard WMA lakes, Ballard County;
- (b) Beaver Creek Lake, Anderson County;
- (c) Bert Combs Lake, Clay County;
- (d) Boatwright WMA lakes, Ballard County;
- (e) Boltz Lake, Grant County;
- (f) Briggs Lake, Logan County;
- (g) Bullock Pen Lake, Grant County;
- (h) Carnico Lake, Nicholas County;
- (i) Carpenter Lake, Daviess County;
- (j) Carter Caves Lake, Carter County;

- (k) Cedar Creek Lake, Lincoln County;
  - (l) Corinth Lake, Grant County;
  - (m) Dennie Gooch Lake, Pulaski County;
  - (n) Elmer Davis Lake, Owen County;
  - (o) Fishpond Lake, Letcher County;
  - (p) Goose Lake, Muhlenberg County;
  - (q) Greenbo Lake, Greenup County;
  - (r) Guist Creek Lake, Shelby County;
  - (s) Island Lake, Ohio County;
  - (t) Kentucky River WMA, Boone Tract lakes, Henry County;
  - (u) Kincaid Lake, Pendleton County;
  - (v) Kingdom Come Lake, Harlan County;
  - (w) Kingfisher lakes, Daviess County;
  - (x) Lake Beshear, Caldwell County;
  - (y) Lake Chumley, Lincoln County;
  - (z) Lake Malone, Muhlenberg County;
  - (aa) Lake Mauzy, Union County;
  - (bb) Lake Reba, Madison County;
  - (cc) Lake Washburn, Ohio County;
  - (dd) Lebanon City Lake, Marion County;
  - (ee) Lincoln Homestead Lake, Washington County;
  - (ff) Marion County Lake, Marion County;
  - (gg) Martin County Lake, Martin County;
  - (hh) McNeely Lake, Jefferson County;
  - (ii) Metcalfe County Lake, Metcalfe County;
  - (jj) Pan Bowl Lake, Breathitt County;
  - (kk) Pikeville City Lake, Pike County;
  - (ll) Shanty Hollow Lake, Warren County;
  - (mm) South Lake, Ohio County;
  - (nn) Spurlington Lake, Taylor County; or
  - (oo) Wilgreen Lake, Madison County.
- (3) Length restrictions in this section shall not apply to a canoe.
- (4) A person shall not operate a personal watercraft on Cedar Creek Lake, as established in KRS 235.010(4).

Section 2. [~~Section 3.~~]

- (1) A person shall not operate a boat:
  - (a) Motor without an underwater exhaust; or
  - (b) Faster than idle speed while passing a boat with an occupant actively engaged in fishing, except in a designated skiing zone.
- (2) The requirements established in subsection (1) of this section shall apply on:
  - (a) Beaver Lake, Anderson County;
  - (b) Boltz Lake, Grant County;
  - (c) Bullock Pen Lake, Grant County;
  - (d) Carnico Lake, Nicholas County;
  - (e) Cedar Creek Lake; Lincoln County;
  - (f) Corinth Lake, Grant County;
  - (g) Elmer Davis Lake, Owen County;
  - (h) Greenbo Lake, Owen County;
  - (i) Guist Creek Lake, Shelby County;
  - (j) Kincaid Lake, Pendleton County;
  - (k) Lake Beshear, Caldwell County;

- (l) Lake Malone, Muhlenberg County;
- (m) Pan Bowl Lake, Breathitt County;
- (n) Shanty Hollow Lake, Warren County;
- (o) Swan Lake, Ballard County; and
- (p) Wilgreen Lake, Madison County.

Section 3. [~~Section 4.~~] A person shall not operate an electric or an internal combustion boat motor on:

- (1) Dennie Gooch Lake, Pulaski County;
- (2) Kingdom Come Lake, Harlan County; or
- (3) Lake Chumley, Lincoln County.

Section 4. [~~Section 5.~~] A person shall not operate an internal combustion boat motor and shall only be allowed to use an electric trolling motor on:

- (1) Bert Combs Lake, Clay County;
- (2) Briggs Lake, Logan County;
- (3) Carpenter Lake, Daviess County;
- (4) Carter Caves Lake, Carter County;
- (5) Fishpond Lake, Letcher County;
- (6) Kentucky River WMA, Boone Tract lakes, excluding Benjy Kinman Lake, Henry County;
- (7) Kingfisher Lake, Daviess County;
- (8) Lake Mauzy, Union County;
- (9) Lake Reba, Madison County;
- (10) Lake Washburn, Ohio County;
- (11) Lebanon City Lake, Marion County;
- (12) Lincoln Homestead Lake, Washington County;
- (13) Marion County Lake, Marion County;
- (14) Martin County Lake, Martin County;
- (15) McNeely Lake, Jefferson County;
- (16) Metcalfe County Lake, Metcalfe County;
- (17) Mill Creek Lake, Wolfe County;
- (18) Pikeville City Lake, Pike County; or
- (19) Spurlington Lake, Taylor County.

Section 5. [~~Section 6.~~] A person shall not operate a motorboat faster than idle speed on:

- (1) Ballard WMA lakes, Ballard County;
- (2) Benjy Kinman Lake at Kentucky River WMA, Henry County;
- (3) Beulah Lake, Jackson County;
- (4) Boatwright WMA lakes, Ballard County;
- (5) Carnico Lake, Nicholas County;
- (6) Goose Lake, Muhlenberg County;
- (7) Greenbo Lake, Greenup County;
- (8) Island Lake, Ohio County;
- (9) South Lake, Ohio County;
- (10) Pan Bowl Lake, Breathitt County; or
- (11) Wilgreen Lake, Madison County.

Section 6. [~~Section 7.~~] A person operating an internal combustion [~~a boat~~] motor greater than ten (10) horsepower, or an electric motor exceeding ten (10) horsepower and six (6) kilowatts input power, shall not exceed idle speed on:

- (1) Beaver Lake, Anderson County;
- (2) Boltz Lake, Grant County;
- (3) Bullock Pen Lake, Grant County;

- (4) Corinth Lake, Grant County;
- (5) Elmer Davis Lake, Owen County;
- (6) Herb Smith-Cranks Creek Lake, Harlan County;
- (7) Kincaid Lake, Pendleton County;
- (8) Martins Fork Lake, Harlan County; or
- (9) Shanty Hollow Lake, Warren County.

*RICH STORM, Commissioner*

APPROVED BY AGENCY: November 10, 2025

FILED WITH LRC: November 13, 2025 at 12:38 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD:** A public hearing on this administrative regulation shall be held on January 29, 2026, at 9:30 a.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 January 31, 2026. 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)

## REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS AND TIERING STATEMENT

**Contact Person:**Jenny Gilbert

**Subject Headings:**Fish and Wildlife, Boats and Boating, Watercraft and Watersports

**(1) Provide a brief summary of:**

**(a) What this administrative regulation does:**

This administrative regulation limits the size of boats and motors on small lakes for safety reasons and to minimize interference with other users.

**(b) The necessity of this administrative regulation:**

This administrative regulation is necessary to protect the safety of individuals boating on these small lakes and to minimize interference with other users.

**(c) How this administrative regulation conforms to the content of the authorizing statutes:**

150.620 authorizes the department to promulgate administrative regulations governing lands and waters the department has acquired. KRS 235.280 requires the department, with approval of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission, to promulgate administrative regulations to govern the fair, reasonable, equitable, and safe use of all waters of this state.

**(d) How this administrative regulation currently assists or will assist in the effective administration of the statutes:**

This administrative regulation helps fulfill the purpose of KRS 150.620 and 235.280 by providing fair, reasonable, equitable, and safe use of small lakes in the state.

**(2) If this is an amendment to an existing administrative regulation, provide a brief summary of:**

**(a) How the amendment will change this existing administrative regulation:**

301 KAR 6:015 is the recodified regulation 301 KAR 1:015, and the amendment addresses restrictions for electric outboard motors, including the size at which electric motors must follow the same idle speed restrictions as internal combustion motors. The definition was deleted to be added in the definition regulation for Chapter 6 as well. This regulation fits better under Chapter 6 of Title 301.

**(b) The necessity of the amendment to this administrative regulation:**

This amendment addresses electric outboard motors which are just starting to hit the boating market. These motors do not follow the same labeling standards as internal combustion motors. As a result, KDFWR is trying to get ahead of these changes and set standard specifications for electric motors to allow for similar use and speed restrictions as those applied to internal combustion motors. Failure to do so would result in electric outboard motors being used at unsafe speeds on those small lakes covered in this regulation.

**(c) How the amendment conforms to the content of the authorizing statutes:**

N/A

**(d) How the amendment will assist in the effective administration of the statutes:**

N/A

**(3) Does this administrative regulation or amendment implement legislation from the previous five years?No**

**(4) List the type and number of individuals, businesses, organizations, or state and local governments affected by this administrative regulation:**

All individuals operating electric boat motors on the small lakes covered in this regulation will be affected.

**(5) Provide an analysis of how the entities identified in question (4) will be impacted by either the implementation of this administrative regulation, if new, or by the change, if it is an amendment, including:**

**(a) List the actions that each of the regulated entities identified in question (4) will have to take to comply with this administrative regulation or amendment:**

Those entities identified in question (3) would need to follow the same use and speed restrictions as those individuals operating equivalent-sized internal combustion motors.

**(b) In complying with this administrative regulation or amendment, how much will it cost each of the entities identified in question (4):**

There will be no additional costs to those identified in question (3).

**(c) As a result of compliance, what benefits will accrue to the entities identified in question (4):**

By following the same safe-operation requirements as those for internal combustion motors, the entities in question (3) will be able to enjoy a safe boating and fishing experience on these lakes.

**(6) Provide an estimate of how much it will cost the administrative body to implement this administrative regulation:**

**(a) Initially:**

This administrative regulation change will result in no initial change in administrative cost to the Department.

**(b) On a continuing basis:**

There will be no additional cost on a continuing basis.

**(7) What is the source of the funding to be used for the implementation and enforcement of this administrative regulation or this amendment:**

The source of funding is the State Game and Fish Fund.

**(8) Provide an assessment of whether an increase in fees or funding will be necessary to implement this administrative regulation, if new, or by the change if it is an amendment:**

It will not be necessary to increase any other fees or increase funding to implement this administrative regulation.

**(9) State whether or not this administrative regulation establishes any fees or directly or indirectly increases any fees:**

No new fees will be established.

**(10) TIERING: Is tiering applied?**

Tiering was not applied since individuals operating internal combustion boat motors and those operating electric outboard motors must follow the same requirements.

## FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

**(1) Identify each state statute, federal statute, or federal regulation that requires or authorizes the action taken by the administrative regulation:**

KRS 150.620 and 235.280.

**(2) State whether this administrative regulation is expressly authorized by an act of the General Assembly, and if so, identify the act:**

150.620 authorizes the department to promulgate administrative regulations governing lands and waters the department has acquired. KRS 235.280 requires the department, with approval of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission, to promulgate administrative regulations to govern the fair, reasonable, equitable, and safe use of all waters of this state.

**(3)(a) Identify the promulgating agency and any other affected state units, parts, or divisions:**

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Fisheries Division

**(b) Estimate the following for each affected state unit, part, or division identified in (3)(a):**

**1. Expenditures:**

**For the first year: There is no cost to KDFWR in the first year.**

**For subsequent years: There is no cost to KDFWR in subsequent years.**

**2. Revenues:**

**For the first year: No additional revenue will be collected in the first year.**

**For subsequent years: No additional revenue will be collected in subsequent years.**

**3. Cost Savings:**

**For the first year: N/A**

**For subsequent years: N/A**

**(4)(a) Identify affected local entities (for example: cities, counties, fire departments, school districts):**

Local fire and emergency rescue entities should see a benefit from this regulation as it will ensure safety on the water and limit boating collisions and other injuries from excessive speed on these small lakes.

**(b) Estimate the following for each affected local entity identified in (4)(a):**

**1. Expenditures:**

**For the first year: N/A**

**For subsequent years: N/A**

**2. Revenues:**

**For the first year: N/A**

**For subsequent years: N/A**

**3. Cost Savings:**

**For the first year: N/A**

**For subsequent years:N/A**

**(5)(a) Identify any affected regulated entities not listed in (3)(a) or (4)(a):**

There are no other affected regulated entities.

**(b) Estimate the following for each regulated entity identified in (5)(a):**

**1. Expenditures:**

**For the first year:N/A**

**For subsequent years:N/A**

**2. Revenues:**

**For the first year:N/A**

**For subsequent years:N/A**

**3. Cost Savings:**

**For the first year:N/A**

**For subsequent years:N/A**

**(6) Provide a narrative to explain the following for each entity identified in (3)(a), (4)(a), and (5)(a)**

**(a) Fiscal impact of this administrative regulation:**

There will be no fiscal impact to any of the entities identified in (3)(a), (4)(a), or (5)(a) since this regulation only requires boaters to operate at safe speeds and use equipment that is safe for the size and use of each lake.

**(b) Methodology and resources used to reach this conclusion:**

Since this regulation only addresses operation of boat motors and not the cost of purchasing or registering them, there should be no fiscal impact based on use and operation of the motors.

**(7) Explain, as it relates to the entities identified in (3)(a), (4)(a), and (5)(a):**

**(a) Whether this administrative regulation will have a "major economic impact", as defined by KRS 13A.010(14):**

This regulation will not have an overall negative or adverse major economic impact to the entities identified above.

**(b) The methodology and resources used to reach this conclusion:**

Since there will be no additional costs to implement or follow these regulations, there will be no "major economic impact" as a result. Safe operation of motorboats on these small lakes will not require any financial burden to the regulated entities.