

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

301 KAR 1:001. Definitions for 301 KAR Chapter 1.

RELATES TO: KRS 150.010, 150.025, 150.170, 50 C.F.R. 17.11

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 150.025(1)(h)

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 of Fish and Wildlife Resources~~[department]~~ to promulgate administrative regulations to carry out the purposes of KRS Chapter 150. This administrative regulation establishes definitions for terms used in 301 KAR Chapter 1.

Section 1. Definitions.

- (1) "Adjacent landowner" means the owner of real property that shares a common boundary with department property.
- (2) "Angler" means a person holding a valid resident or nonresident fishing license and includes those persons who are fishing license exempt as established in KRS 150.170.
- (3) "APHIS" means U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.
- (4) "APHIS-approved laboratory" means a laboratory authorized by a state, tribal, or federal primacy authority to analyze aquatic animal health and perform assays for the detection of the VHS virus.
- (5) "Aquarium species" means the species of fish that are legally sold in the pet and ornamental trade business and not stocked into waters of the Commonwealth.
- (6) "Aquatic organisms" means fish, frog, crayfish, and other aquatic vertebrate and invertebrate.
- (7) "Archery equipment" means a long bow, recurve bow, or compound bow incapable of holding an arrow at full or partial draw without aid from the archer.
- (8) "Artificial bait" means a lure, bare hook, or fly made of wood, metal, plastic, feathers, preserved pork rind, or a similar inert material.
- (9) "Bar mesh size" means the distance between two (2) knots on a line of a net.
- (10) "Boat dock" means a privately owned floating or fixed structure that is used by an adjacent landowner to moor a boat on department property.
- (11) "Boat dock tag" means a metal tag provided by the department that has a unique combination of letters and numbers and is permanently affixed to an approved boat dock so that it is visible from the lake.
- (12) "Boating access area" means property owned or managed by the department and identified by signs as a public facility for launching and retrieving boats, including:
 - (a) Ramps, parking lots, courtesy docks, and access roads; and
 - (b) A zone extending fifty (50) feet into the water adjacent to the department property established in paragraph (a) of this subsection.
- (13) "Bow fishing" means shooting rough fish with an arrow with a barbed or retractable style point that has a line attached to it for retrieval with archery equipment, a crossbow, or a pneumatic arrow launching device.

- (14) "Buffer zone" means the area from the lake pool level of Cedar Creek Lake to the marked boundary.
- (15) "Buyer's permit" means a Commercial Roe-bearing Fish Buyer's Permit.
- (16) "By-catch" means any fish that is not an invasive carp or scaled rough fish.
- (17) "Camp" means the erecting of a tent or shelter of natural or synthetic material, preparing a sleeping bag or other bedding material for use, or parking of a motor vehicle, motor home, or trailer for the apparent purpose of overnight occupancy.
- (18) "Catfish" means a blue catfish, channel catfish, or flathead catfish.
- (19) "Certified VHS free facility" means a fish-rearing facility that has been certified VHS free by an APHIS approved laboratory.
- (20) "Chumming" means placing substances in the water for the purpose of attracting fish to a particular area.
- (21) "Commercial fisher" means a person holding a valid resident or nonresident commercial fishing license.
- (22) "Commercial gear tag" means a metal tag provided by the department and that is attached to legal commercial fishing gear as established in 301 KAR 1:146.
- (23) "Crossbow" means a bow designed or fitted with a device to hold an arrow at full or partial draw without the aid from an archer.
- (24) "Cull" or "culling" means to release a previously caught fish that an angler has kept as a part of a daily limit and replace it with another fish of the same species.
- (25) "Daily limit" means the maximum number of a particular species or group of species a person may legally take in one (1) calendar day while fishing.
- (26) "Department property" means lands or waters controlled by the department through ownership, lease, license, easement, or cooperative agreement at department-owned lakes.
- (27) "Different body of water":
- (a) Means a body of water that is separate and not contiguous to another body of water, including a man-made reservoir that is separated from a downstream river by a dam; and
 - (b) Does not mean a river, stream, or creek that is separated by a low-level dam.
- (28) "Diploid grass carp" means a fish of the genus and species *Ctenopharyngodon idella* that is reproductively fertile and has not been genetically altered and therefore has the normal set of somatic chromosomes as determined by blood sample.
- (29) "Existing structure" means an exempted access or nonaccess structure built on department property prior to April 2, 2010.
- (30) "Flag net" means a gill or trammel net that is anchored on one (1) end, with the other end of the net unanchored, allowing this end of the gill or trammel net to float freely.
- (31) "Gill net" means a passive capture device in which fishes are captured by becoming wedged, gilled, or entangled in a single panel of webbing fished vertically.
- (32) "Harvester permit" means a Commercial Roe-bearing Fish Harvester's Permit.
- (33) "Idle speed" means the slowest possible speed at which maneuverability can be maintained.
- (34) "Immediate family" means a person's spouse, mother, father, daughter, brother, sister, grandparent, or son.
- (35) "Invasive carp" means:
- (a) Bighead carp *Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*;
 - (b) Black carp *Mylopharyngodon piceus*;
 - (c) Grass carp *Ctenopharyngodon idella*; or
 - (d) Silver carp *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*.
- (36) "Lake" means impounded waters from the dam upstream to the first riffle on the main stem river and tributary streams.

(37) "Live bait" means the organisms established in paragraphs (a) through (h) of this subsection if they are alive:

- (a) Live bait fish;
- (b) Crayfish;
- (c) Salamander;
- (d) Frog, except bullfrog;
- (e) Tadpole;
- (f) Native lamprey;
- (g) Asiatic clam (Genus Corbicula); or
- (h) Other aquatic invertebrate organisms, except for mussel.

(38) "Live bait fishes" means:

- (a) Rough fish, except invasive carp and federally threatened or endangered species, as established in 50 C.F.R. 17.11; or
- (b) Redear sunfish less than six (6) inches in length.

(39) "Lower Ohio River Trophy Catfish" means, for the area downstream of Cannelton Lock and Dam in the Ohio River and its tributaries open to commercial fishing:

- (a) Blue or flathead catfish that is a minimum of forty (40) inches in length; or
- (b) Channel catfish that is a minimum of thirty (30) inches in length.

(40) "Lower Ohio River Trophy Catfish Harvest Permit" means a permit that allows a commercial fisher to harvest Lower Ohio River Trophy Catfish.

(41) "Normal pool" means a water level equal to the elevation of the lake's principal spillway.

(42) "Overflow lake" means a permanent or temporary body of water that receives overflow flood waters from an adjacent stream.

(43) "Pay lake" means a privately owned, impounded body of water where a daily fee is charged to fish and is open to the public.

(44) "Pay lake operator" means a person who holds a valid pay lake license~~[, as established in 301 KAR 3:022].~~

(45) "Permanent dwelling":

- (a) Means a private residence on an adjacent landowner's property that is both fixed in location and of durable permanent construction; and
- (b) Does not mean tents, motorized vehicles, trailers, camp trailers, or any type of interim construction or residence.

(46) "Pneumatic arrow launching device" means a device designed to fire an arrow using a compressed air cartridge.

(47) "Possession limit" means the maximum number of unprocessed fish a person holds after two (2) or more days of fishing.

(48) "Private lake or pond" means a lake or pond that is:

- (a) On private land;
- (b) Not connected by surface water to any public waters;
- (c) Not accessible to fish from other public bodies of water; and
- (d) Not located within the one hundred (100) year floodplain.

(49) "Private waters" means any water body that is not a public water or a private lake or pond.

(50) "Processed fish" means a fish that has been gutted, with the head removed.

(51) ~~[(49)]~~ "Rebuild" means to totally reconstruct.

(52) ~~[(50)]~~ "Release" means to return a fish to the water from which it was taken immediately after removing the hook.

(53) ~~[(51)]~~ "Restricted water" means those areas, as established in 301 KAR 1:140, 1:146, 1:150, and 1:155, where:

- (a) Commercial fishing is prohibited;
- (b) Commercial fishing with gill or trammel nets is prohibited; or

- (c) Commercial fishing with gill or trammel nets of restricted net mesh size is prohibited.
- ~~(54)~~ ~~{{(52)}}~~ "Roe-bearing fish" means paddlefish, shovelnose sturgeon, and bowfin, regardless of the sex of the fish or the presence or absence of roe.
- ~~(55)~~ ~~{{(53)}}~~ "Roe-bearing Fish Buyer's Permit" means a permit issued by the department that entitles the permit holder to buy roe-bearing species or roe.
- ~~(56)~~ ~~{{(54)}}~~ "Roe-bearing Fish Harvester's Permit" means a permit issued by the department to a licensed commercial fisher that entitles the permit holder to harvest and sell roe-bearing species.
- ~~(57)~~ ~~{{(55)}}~~ "Rough fish" is defined by KRS 150.010(37).
- ~~(58)~~ ~~{{(56)}}~~ "Scaled rough fish" means any scaled fish that is not an invasive carp, sport fish as established in 301 KAR 1:060, roe bearing fish, or a species ineligible for commercial harvest as established in 301 KAR 1:155.
- ~~(59)~~ ~~{{(57)}}~~ "Shad" means a live gizzard shad or threadfin shad.
- ~~(60)~~ ~~{{(58)}}~~ "Shoreline use permit" means a permit issued by the department that allows an adjacent landowner to construct a new access structure or to keep or rebuild an existing structure on department land.
- ~~(61)~~ ~~{{(59)}}~~ "Single hook" means a hook with no more than one (1) point.
- ~~(62)~~ ~~{{(60)}}~~ "Size limit" means the minimum legal length of a fish that is measured by laying the fish flat on a ruler with the mouth closed and tail lobes squeezed together.
- ~~(63)~~ ~~{{(61)}}~~ "Slot limit" means a size range of a fish species that shall be released by an angler.
- ~~(64)~~ ~~{{(62)}}~~ "Slow speed" means speed attained with the throttle of the motor set at its slowest forward position.
- ~~(65)~~ ~~{{(63)}}~~ "Speeding and reckless operation" means any operation of a boat in any area of a lake that could endanger other persons or craft using the lake by intimidation, direct contact or by waves created by the speed or reckless operation of a boat.
- ~~(66)~~ ~~{{(64)}}~~ "Sport fish" means those species established in 301 KAR 1:060.
- ~~(67)~~ ~~{{(65)}}~~ "Sport fisherman" means a person holding a valid resident or nonresident fishing license and includes a person who is license exempt pursuant to KRS 150.170.
- ~~(68)~~ ~~{{(66)}}~~ "Temporary aquatic area" means an area:
- (a) Temporarily inundated from, but still connected to, a stream, river, or reservoir; and
 - (b) That persists only for the duration of the elevated water levels.
- ~~(69)~~ ~~{{(67)}}~~ "Temporary pool" means an area temporarily inundated from, but not connected to, a stream, river, or reservoir.
- ~~(70)~~ ~~{{(68)}}~~ "Traditional fishing methods" means the act of taking or attempting to take for non-commercial purposes any freshwater fish species using:
- (a) Hook and line in hand; or
 - (b) Rod in hand.
- ~~(71)~~ ~~{{(69)}}~~ "Trammel net" means a passive capture device in which fishes are captured by becoming wedged, gilled, or entangled in two or three panels of webbing fished vertically.
- ~~(72)~~ ~~{{(70)}}~~ "Triploid grass carp" means a fish of the genus and species *Ctenopharyngodon idella* that is reproductively sterile because it has been genetically altered to have an additional or extra set of somatic chromosomes as determined by blood sample.
- ~~(73)~~ ~~{{(71)}}~~ "Trophy catfish" means a:
- (a) Blue or flathead catfish that is a minimum of thirty-five (35) inches in length; or
 - (b) Channel catfish that is a minimum of twenty-eight (28) inches in length.
- ~~(74)~~ ~~{{(72)}}~~ "Turtle" means a:
- (a) Common snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*);
 - (b) Smooth softshell turtle (*Apalone mutica*); or

- (c) Spiny softshell turtle (*Apalone spinifera*).
- ~~(75)~~ ~~((73))~~ "Unlicensed helper" means a person without a commercial fishing license who is assisting a commercial fisher.
- ~~(76)~~ ~~((74))~~ "Unprocessed fish" means the whole fish prior to being processed.
- ~~(77)~~ ~~((75))~~ "Unprocessed roe" means roe that has been removed from a roe-bearing fish by a food processing plant prior to its sale at a roe-bearing fish buyer's facility.
- ~~(78)~~ ~~((76))~~ "VHS" means Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia, a disease of fish.
- ~~(79)~~ ~~((77))~~ "VHS positive state" means any state in the United States, or any Canadian province, listed on the APHIS Web site www.aphis.usda.gov as being positive for Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS).
- ~~(80)~~ ~~((78))~~ "VHS-regulated fish species" means any species of fish deemed susceptible to VHS and listed on the APHIS Web site at www.aphis.usda.gov.
- ~~(81)~~ ~~((79))~~ "Water supply lake" means a lake that:
- (a) Is owned by a municipality or other public water supply entity;
 - (b) Provides potable water supply for the public;
 - (c) Is not owned by the state; and
 - (d) Is not managed by the department.
- ~~(82)~~ ~~((80))~~ "Whip set" means a gill net or a trammel net rigged so it is free-floating. Approved by the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

RICH STORM, Commissioner

APPROVED BY AGENCY: July 13, 2026

FILED WITH LRC: July 15, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD: A public hearing on this administrative regulation shall be held on September 30, 2026, at 10:00 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 September 30, 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: fw.publicaffairs@ky.gov

REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS AND TIERING STATEMENT

Contact Person:Jenny Gilbert **Phone:** 502-564-3400 **Email:** fw.publicaffairs@ky.gov

Subject Headings:Fishing, Fish and Wildlife, Conservation

(1) Provide a brief summary of:

(a) What this administrative regulation does:

This administrative regulation establishes definitions for terms used in 301 KAR Chapter 1.

(b) The necessity of this administrative regulation:

This administrative regulation is necessary to avoid confusion when interpreting the meaning of terms used in 301 KAR Chapter 1.

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

KRS 150.025(1)(h) authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to promulgate administrative regulations to carry out the purposes of KRS Chapter 150.

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

By providing definitions for the terms used in 301 KAR Chapter 1, misinterpretation of the regulations should be minimized.

(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:

This amendment adds a definition for “Private lake or pond” to conform with recent statute changes from the 2026 legislative session (26 RS SB 39/EN). A definition for “Private waters” was also added to reduce confusion between those two types of water bodies.

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

This amendment was necessary to conform with recent statute changes from the 2026 legislative session (26 RS SB 39/EN).

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

See 1(c) above.

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

See 1(d) above.

(3) Does this administrative regulation or amendment implement legislation from the previous five years? Yes. This amendment implements changes made pursuant to 26 RS SB 39/EN which was signed by the Governor on 4/10/2026 (Acts Ch. 93).

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

All bona fide owners of private land in Kentucky who are also residents of the Commonwealth with a “private lake or pond” on their land will be affected. In addition, any other person fishing a “private lake and pond” by invitation 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:

No additional actions will need to be taken to comply with this regulation. This regulation simply provides definitions for terms in 301 KAR Chapter 1.

(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 cost to comply with this regulation.

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

All individuals interpreting regulations within 301 KAR Chapter 1 will have a better understanding of the term “private lake or pond”.

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

(a) Initially:

There will be no cost initially.

(b) On a continuing basis:

There will be no 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:

No increase in fees or funding will be necessary.

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

No direct or indirect fees will be established.

(10) TIERING: Is tiering applied?

No tiering is applied. This regulation applies to all individuals, businesses, and organizations impacted by the regulations in 301 KAR Chapter 1.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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

150.025(1)(h)

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

This amendment is not expressly authorized by an act of the General Assembly but is promulgated pursuant to KRS 150.025 and 150.195.

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

The Department's Divisions of Fisheries and Law Enforcement will be impacted.

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

1. Expenditures:

For the first year:No expenditures will be experienced to administer this administrative regulation during the first year.

For subsequent years:No expenditures will be experienced to administer this administrative regulation in subsequent years.

2. Revenues:

For the first year:No revenue will be generated by this administrative regulation during the first year.

For subsequent years:No revenue will be generated by this administrative regulation in subsequent years.

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year:No cost savings will be generated by this administrative regulation during the first year.

For subsequent years:No cost savings will be generated by this administrative regulation in subsequent years.

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

N/A

(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):

N/A

(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 is no fiscal impact of this administrative regulation.

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

No methodology or resources were used to reach this conclusion as this is administrative regulation only contains definitions to be used in 301 KAR Chapter 1.

(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 administrative regulation will not have a major economic impact to any entity identified in the questions above.

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

No methodology or resources were used to reach this conclusion as this administrative regulation only contains definitions.