KENTUCKY FISHING & BOATING GUIDE

MARCH 2018 - FEBRUARY 2019

FISH & WILDLIFE:
1-800-858-1549 • *fw.ky.gov*

Report Game Violations and Fish Kills:
1-800-25-ALERT

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KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601

DEFINITIONS

(301 KAR 1:201, KRS 150.010)

Fishing-related definitions not listed here are included in appropriate sections of this guide.

Angling means taking or attempting to take fish by hook and line in hand, rod in hand, jugging, set line or sport fishing trotline.

Artificial baits are lures or flies made of wood, metal, plastic, hair, feathers, preserved pork rind or similar inert materials and having no organic baits including dough bait, putty or paste type baits designed to attract fish by taste or smell.

Authorization number is the number assigned to a person in lieu of fishing or hunting license when the license is purchased over the phone or Internet.

Black bass includes largemouth, smallmouth, Kentucky (spotted) and Coosa bass.

Culling: Replacing a fish in the daily creel limit with another fish of the same species.

Daylight hours begin one-half hour before sunrise and end one-half hour after sunset.

Daily limit is the maximum number of a particular species or group of species a person may legally keep in a day or have in possession while fishing.

Fishing is taking or attempting to take fish in any manner, whether or not fish are in possession.

Lake means impounded waters, from the dam upstream to the first riffle on the main stem river and tributary streams or as specified in regulation.

Length means the distance from the front tip of a fish's lower jaw with mouth closed to the tip of its tail with the fish laid flat on a rule with its tail lobes squeezed together.

Organic baits are insects, minnows, fish eggs, worms, corn, cheese, cut bait or similar substances used as a lure.

Possession limit is the maximum number of unprocessed fish a person may hold after two days or more of fishing.

Regulation is a written document adopted and approved by the KDFWR Commission and approved by legislative committees.

Release means return of the fish, in the best possible condition, immediately after removing the hook, to the water from which it was taken in a place where the fish's immediate escape shall not be prevented.

Resident is anyone who has established permanent and legal residence in Kentucky and residing here at least 30 days.

Size limit is the legal length a fish must be if it is in possession. (Fish length is measured from the tip of the closed lower jaw to the tip of the tail with fish laid flat on rule and tail lobes squeezed together.)

Slot limit means fish within a specified minimum and maximum size range must be released.

Single hook is a hook with only one point.

Tenant is any resident sharecropper or lessee who lives and works on farmland owned by his/her landlord.

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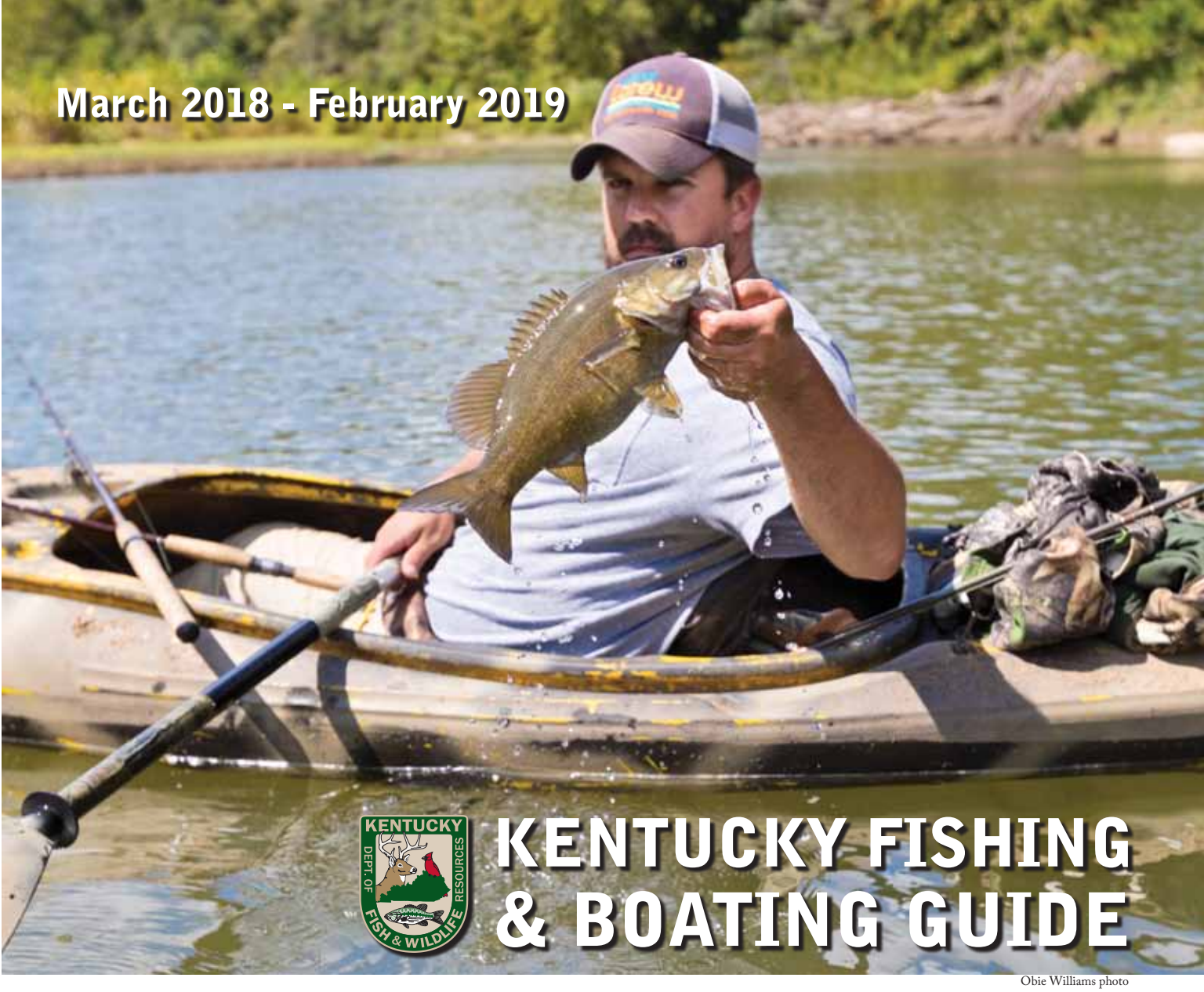

KENTUCKY FISHING & BOATING GUIDE

Obie Williams photo

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This is a SUMMARY of the laws regarding fishing and boating. This guide is intended solely for informational use. It is not a reprint of any referenced statute or regulation in its entirety and should not be used as such. Questions about the information contained in this guide should be directed to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources BEFORE engaging in the activities referenced. Actual wording of any Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) or Kentucky Administrative Regulation (KAR) can be viewed at *www.lrc.state.ky.us/kar/frntpage.htm.*

OTHER GUIDES AVAILABLE

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife also produces regulation guides for spring and fall hunting and trapping, waterfowl and other migratory bird hunting. Call 1-800-858-1549 weekdays, look for a copy of these regulation guides where hunting licenses are sold, or log on to *fw.ky.gov.*

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Commonwealth of Kentucky
Matthew G. Bevin, Governor

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

1st District: Dr. Harry W. Carloss, Paducah
2nd District: C.F. "Frank" Williams, Madisonville
3rd District: Russell J. Gailor, Louisville
4th District: Kenny Knott, Glasgow
5th District: Kevin R. Bond, Burlington
6th District: Jimmy Bevins, Frankfort
7th District: Paul Horn, Prestonsburg
8th District: Richard Storm, Carlisle
9th District: Dr. Karl Clinard, Somerset
Commissioner Emeritus: Dr. James R. Rich, Taylor Mill

Department of
FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Commissioner: Gregory K. Johnson
Deputy Commissioner: Charles Bush
Deputy Commissioner: Karen Waldrop
Wildlife Director: Steve Beam
Fisheries Director: Ron Brooks
Law Enforcement Director: vacant
Information & Education Director: Norm Minch (acting)
Administrative Services Director: Billye Haslett
Engineering, Infrastructure and Technology Director: David Bruce
Marketing Director: Brian V. Blank

FISHING & BOATING GUIDE

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Landowner permission required for hunting and fishing

A person shall not enter upon the lands of another to hunt, fish or trap without the oral or written permission of the landowner, tenant or person who has authority to grant permission. Those who fail to obtain permission are subject to arrest and prosecution. Railroad tracks and rights of way are privately owned property and permission to hunt, fish or trap must be obtained prior to entry. (KRS 150:192)

NEW THIS YEAR

The items highlighted **in bright blue throughout this guide** are a quick overview of the changes to this year's regulations.

FISHING

- **The statewide daily creel limit for crappie is now 20 fish per angler per day.**
- **The statewide daily creel limit for rainbow trout is now 8 fish. The statewide daily creel limit for brown trout is now 1 fish with a 16-inch minimum size limit.**
- **Anglers may use dip nets to collect baitfish statewide.**
- **Anglers using jugs, trot lines or limb lines must now use the Customer Identification Number provided on their fishing licenses to tag their jugs, trot lines or limb lines instead of their name and address.**
- **Barren River Lake: Blue and channel-catfish now under a 15-fish daily creel limit, only one fish may be longer than 25 inches.**
- **Taylorsville Lake: Crappie minimum size limit is now 10 inches.**
- **Beaver Lake (Anderson County): The 15-inch minimum size limit on large-mouth bass is now removed.**
- **Beech Fork Reservoir (Powell County): Largemouth bass are now under a 15-inch minimum size limit. Bluegill are now under a 15-fish daily creel limit.**
- **Benjy Kinman Lake (Henry County): Crappie, bluegill and sunfish now under statewide regulations.**
- **Southland Christian Church Lake (Jessamine County) is now enrolled in the Fishing in Neighborhoods (FINs) program.**
- **Willisburg Park Pond (Washington County): Largemouth bass are now under a 1-fish daily creel limit with a 15-inch minimum size limit, sunfish are under a 15-fish daily creel limit with no minimum size limit while channel catfish are under a 4-fish daily creel limit with no minimum size limit.**
- **Possession or use of live shad for bait is now prohibited on all Fishing in Neighborhoods (FINs) lakes.**
- **Some fishing license and boater registration fees changed for the 2018 license year.**

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

WHO WE ARE

Created as the Kentucky Game and Fish Commission on March 12, 1912, the agency known today as the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources was established in its present form by the Kentucky General Assembly in 1944. An agency of the Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet, the department today has about 500 full-time employees.

WHAT WE DO

Through the decades the department's role has expanded to include managing both game and non-game fish and wildlife resources, creating regulations, enforcing wildlife and boating laws, hatching, rearing and stocking fish, assisting landowners with fish and wildlife habitat improvement, educating youth about the importance of fish and wildlife and their habitats, stream restoration, passing on the heritage of archery and shooting sports, buying land for public use, and building boat ramps for angler access to the state's public waterways.

The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission, a nine-member citizens board selected by licensed hunters, boaters and anglers, and appointed by the Governor, meets quarterly in Frankfort to make policy decisions. With input from the agency's director, program administrators and staff biologists, the Commission adopts regulations that must meet with the approval of the Kentucky General Assembly.

OUR BUDGET

Revenue sources are: hunting and fishing licenses (51%); boat registration fees (7%); federal program funds (34%); program income (3%); interest income, tax check-off donations, and other miscellaneous receipts (5%).

Budgeted expenditures are: capital projects and land acquisitions (4%), administration (11%), wildlife (28%), fisheries (18%), information and education (12%), and law enforcement (27%).

The department receives no tax dollars from the state's General Fund, and manages fish and wildlife for all citizens.

FISHING REGULATIONS

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS

Some waterbodies have different size and creel limits, please refer to the "Special Fishing Regulations" section for more details. Fish not included in this list are considered rough fish. There are no size or creel limits for rough fish, unless special regulations apply. For daily creel and fishing license purposes, one fishing day equals one calendar day. **Except for trout**, anglers may cull fish of a particular species until reaching the daily creel limit. Any additional fish caught in excess of the daily creel limit must be released immediately.

SPORT FISH SPECIES		Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Minimum Size Limit
BLACK BASS	Largemouth Bass	6*	12*	12"
	Smallmouth Bass	6*	12*	12"
	Kentucky (Spotted) Bass	6*	12*	none
	Coosa Bass	6*	12*	none
Rock Bass		15	30	none
Redear Sunfish		20	40	none
Walleye, Sauger and their Hybrids		6*	12*	15" on walleye and hybrids; none on sauger
Muskellunge		1	2	30"
Chain Pickerel		5	10	none
Northern Pike		none	none	none
White & Hybrid Striped Bass		15**	30**	none**
Striped Bass		5	10	15"
Yellow Bass		none	none	none
Crappie (Black & White)		20*	40*	none
Rainbow Trout		8	16	none
Brown Trout		1	2	16"
Brook Trout		Catch and release only***		
Lake Sturgeon		Catch and release only		

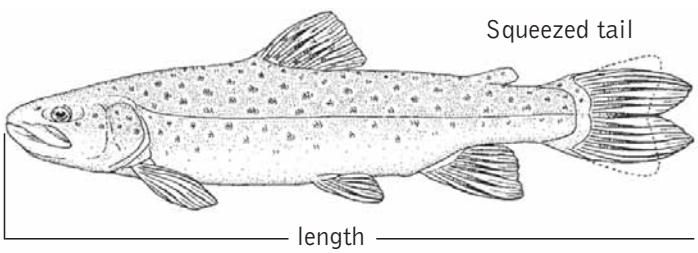
* Singly or combined; a total of these species ** No more than 5 fish in the daily creel limit may be more than 15 inches long. *** Except for the Cumberland River downstream of Wolf Creek Dam and the upper section of Hatchery Creek, see Special Regulations section for details.

STATEWIDE SIZE and CREEL LIMITS (301 KAR 1:060, 1:201; KRS 150.010)

Fishing season is open year-round in Kentucky, except on waterfowl refuges and as otherwise noted in this guide. Statewide size and creel limits apply to all Kentucky waters, public and private, except some waters have different limits (see "Special Fishing Regulations").

MEASURING FISH
(301 KAR 1:201)

Measure all fish from the tip of the lower jaw (closed) to the tip of the tail with fish laid flat on rule with tail lobes squeezed together. Undersized fish must be returned immediately to the waters from which they were taken in the best possible physical condition.



Q: How is a daily creel limit different than a possession limit?

A: The daily creel limit is the number of a particular sport fish species you may keep in one day's fishing. A possession limit is two times the daily creel limit for all fish species with a daily creel limit and excludes processed fish.

SPECIAL FISHING REGULATIONS

(301 KAR 1:080, 1:180, 1:201, 2:222 4:100, KRS 150.010, 150.025)

SPECIAL REGULATION WATERS LISTED ALPHABETICALLY

The public waters listed below have different size and/or creel limits than statewide regulations allow. Statewide size and creel limits apply unless otherwise mentioned below. Special boating regulations are listed in the Boating section of this guide.

Some privately owned waters may have special size and creel limits as posted by signs.

FINs LAKES:

Lakes in the Fishing In Neighborhoods (FINs) program have uniform regulations for daily creel and size limits:

- **Rainbow Trout:** 5-fish daily limit.
- **Catfish:** 4-fish daily limit.
- **Sunfish:** 15-fish daily limit.
- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit, 1 fish daily limit.
- **Possession or use of live shad for bait is prohibited.**

The follwing FINs lakes are now under these special regulations:

Alexandria Community Park Lake (Campbell County), Anderson County Community Park Lake (Anderson County), Bloomfield Park Lake (Nelson County), Bob Noble Park Lake (McCracken County), Brickyard Pond (Knox County), Camp Ernst Lake (Boone County), Carlson Lake (Ft. Knox, Meade County), Cherokee Park Lake (Jefferson County), Easy Walker Park Pond (Montgomery County), Fisherman's Park Lakes (Jefferson County), Flemingsburg Old Reservoir (Fleming County), Jacobson Park Lake (Fayette County), James D. Beville Park Lake (Grayson County), Kentucky Horse Park Lakes (Fayette County), Kess Creek Park Lake (Graves County), Kingdom Come State Park Lake (Harlan County), Lake Mingo (Jessamine County), Lake Pollywog (Grant County), Leary Lake (Grant County), Logan Hubble Park Lake (Lincoln County), Lower Sportman's Lake (Franklin County), Lusby Lake (Scott County), Madisonville City Park Lakes (Hopkins County), Maysville-Mason County Recreation Park Lake (Mason County), Middleton Mills Long Pond and Shelterhouse Ponds (Kenton County), Mike Miller Park Lake (Marshall County), Miles Park Lakes (Jefferson County), Millennium Park Pond (Boyle County), Panther Creek Park Lake, (Daviess County), Prisoner's Lake (Kenton County), Rotary Park Lake (Hickman County), Scott County Park Lake (Scott County), Southgate Lake (Campbell County), **Southland Christian Church Lake (Jessamine County),** Three Springs Lake (Warren County), Tom Wallace Park Lake (Jefferson County), Upper Sportsman's Lake (Franklin County), Waverly Park Lake (Jefferson County), Waymond Morris Park Lake (Daviess County), Whitehall Park Lake (Madison County), Yellow Creek Park Lake (Daviess County)

BARK CAMP CREEK
Whitley County

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

BARKLEY, KENTUCKY LAKES (and their connecting canal)

- **Crappie:** 10-inch minimum size limit.
- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Sauger:** 14-inch minimum size limit.

BARKLEY TAILWATER – See Cumberland River

BARREN RIVER upstream of Barren River Lake; downstream of the lake to Lock and Dam 1 and all tributaries

- **Walleye:** 2 fish daily creel limit; 18- to 26-inch protective slot limit. All walleye caught from 18 to 26 inches long must be immediately released.

BARREN RIVER LAKE

The boundaries of Barren River Lake are from the dam upstream to the KY 100 bridge, Long Creek to the KY 100 bridge, Beaver Creek to the KY 1297 bridge, Skaggs Creek to the Matthews Mill Road bridge and Peter Creek to the Peter Creek Road bridge.

- **Blue and Channel Catfish: 15-fish daily creel limit, only 1 fish may be longer than 25 inches.**
- **Crappie:** 9-inch minimum size limit.
- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit except 1 fish in the daily creel limit or 2 in the possession limit may be less than 15 inches long.
- **Walleye:** 2 fish daily creel limit; 18- to 26-inch protective slot limit. All walleye caught from 18 to 26 inches long must be immediately released.

BEAVER CREEK from the KY 90 bridge upstream to the KY 200 bridge
Wayne County

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

BEAVER LAKE
Anderson County

Possession or use of live shad for

NEED A PLACE TO FISH?

Find new fishing information on Kentucky waterbodies by visiting *fw.ky.gov*. Click on the "Find A Place To Fish" tab on the left side of the home page. Anglers may search lakes, rivers and creeks for boat ramps and access points, what species are available and maps of how to get there plus other useful information.

Also under the "Find a Place to Fish" tab is the 2018 Fishing Forecast. This report details the anticipated fishing success for each species in major waterbodies based on population samples conducted by KDFWR fisheries biologists.

Although the VPA program is now in a reduced capacity, many sites remain open to public use. Check the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website at *fw.ky.gov*.

bait is prohibited.
- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

BEECH FORK RESERVOIR
Powell County
- **Bluegill: 15-fish daily creel limit.**
- **Largemouth Bass: 15-inch minimum size limit.**

BERT COMBS LAKE
Clay County

Possession or use of live shad for bait is prohibited.

BIG BONE CREEK
Boone County

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

BOLTZ LAKE
Grant County

Possession or use of live shad for bait is prohibited.
- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

BRIGGS LAKE
Logan County

Possession or use of live shad for bait is prohibited.

BUCKHORN LAKE
- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Muskellunge:** 36-inch minimum size limit.
- **Crappie:** 9-inch minimum size limit.

BULLOCK PEN LAKE
Grant and Boone counties
- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

CANE CREEK
Laurel County

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

CARNICO LAKE
Nicholas County
- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.

Did you know?

Camping is prohibited on KDFWR owned or managed lakes.

CARPENTER LAKE
Daviess County

Possession or use of live shad for bait is prohibited.

CARR CREEK LAKE
- **Crappie:** 9-inch minimum size limit.
- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.

CARTER CAVES STATE PARK LAKE (also called Smoky Valley Lake)

Fishing during daylight hours only.

Possession or use of live shad for bait is prohibited.
- **Largemouth Bass:** 12- to 15-inch protective slot limit. All largemouth bass caught between 12 and 15 inches in length must be immediately released; 6 fish daily creel limit, only 1 fish may be longer than 15 inches.

CASEY CREEK
Trigg County

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

CAVE RUN LAKE

Gigging and snagging prohibited in the main lake and all tributaries up to the first riffle. The location of the first riffle may change depending on water levels.
- **Largemouth Bass:** 13 to 16-inch protective slot limit. All largemouth bass caught between 13 and 16 inches in length must be released immediately.
- **Smallmouth Bass:** 18-inch minimum size limit.
- **Muskellunge:** 36-inch minimum size limit.

CEDAR CREEK LAKE
Lincoln County
- **Largemouth Bass:** 20-inch minimum size limit, 1 fish daily creel limit.
- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

CHIMNEY TOP CREEK
Wolfe County

A 16-inch minimum size limit and 1 fish daily creel limit for brown trout and only artificial baits may be used.

CLEAR CREEK
Bell County

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

CORINTH LAKE
Grant County

Possession or use of live shad for bait is prohibited.
- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

CUMBERLAND GAP NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
(301 KAR 1:035)

Special fishing regulations are in effect on Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. For complete fishing information on this area contact: Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, P.O. Box 1848, Middlesboro, KY 40965, phone (606) 248-2817.

CUMBERLAND RIVER upstream from Cumberland Falls and all tributaries:
- **Walleye:** 2 fish daily creel limit; 18- to 26-inch protective slot limit. All walleye caught from 18 to 26 inches long must be immediately released.

CUMBERLAND RIVER from Wolf Creek Dam to the Tennessee state line

All licensed anglers must possess a trout permit on this portion of Cumber-

Q: Is fishing allowed around a dock or a marina?

A: It depends. Public marinas on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lakes have contractual agreements that address lease space on public waters. The Corps presently allows the marina owners or operators to post signs that prohibit fishing within 150 feet of their floating structures. These agreements do not prohibit a person from fishing in their boat rental slip. This policy does not apply to privately owned boat docks on Corps lakes.

land River. This includes Hatchery Creek and all tributaries up to the first riffle.

Anglers may not attract or chum trout with bait, corn or other attractants designed to draw numbers of trout to a specific area. This includes all tributaries up to the first riffle and in Hatchery Creek. For regulations on Hatchery Creek, refer to the Hatchery Creek section on page 7.

- **Brown Trout:** 20-inch minimum size limit, 1 fish daily creel limit, also applies to all tributary streams, except Hatchery Creek.
- **Rainbow Trout:** 15 to 20-inch protective slot limit. All trout caught between 15 and 20 inches in length must be immediately released. Five fish daily limit, only one rainbow trout may be longer than 20 inches. Also applies to all tributary streams, except Hatchery Creek.
- **Brook Trout:** 1 fish daily creel limit with a 15-inch minimum size limit. Also applies to all tributary streams, except Hatchery Creek.

CUMBERLAND RIVER from Lake Barkley Dam downstream to confluence with Ohio River

Gigging and snagging only permitted downstream of U.S. 62 bridge with a daily creel limit of 8 fish. Harvesting of sportfish by gigging or snagging is prohibited. All snagged or gigged rough fish including paddlefish, with the exception of shad, herring or Asian carp, shall be taken into possession and not be culled. Snagged or gigged fish must not be disposed of on the bank. Disposing of fish on the bank is littering and subject to a fine. See the gigging and snagging section on page 11 of this guide for additional information. Snagged paddlefish or their roe cannot be sold.

- **Sauger:** 14-inch minimum size limit.

DALE HOLLOW LAKE

- **Crappie:** 10-inch minimum size limit, 15 fish daily creel limit.
- **Black Bass creel:** includes largemouth, smallmouth and Kentucky (spotted) bass – 5 fish daily creel limit on black bass singly or combined, only two of which may be smallmouth bass.
- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Smallmouth Bass:** 16 to 21-inch protective slot limit. One fish over 21 inches and one fish under 16 inches may be kept daily.
- **Sauger:** 14-inch minimum size limit, 10 fish daily creel limit.
- **Rainbow and Brown Trout:** 7-fish aggregate daily creel limit.
- **Walleye:** 16-inch minimum size limit, 5 fish daily creel limit.

DEWEY LAKE

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Blue and Channel Catfish:** 15 fish daily creel limit, only 1 fish may be longer than 25 inches.
- **Muskellunge:** 36-inch minimum size limit.

DIX RIVER from Herrington Lake Dam downstream for two miles

Fishing with artificial lures or flies only.

DOE RUN LAKE
Kenton County

Possession or use of live shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit, 3 fish daily creel limit.
- **Channel Catfish:** Four fish daily creel limit, no minimum size limit.

DOG FORK
Wolfe County

Only artificial baits with a single hook shall be used. Brook trout must be immediately released.

EAST FORK INDIAN CREEK
Menifee County

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

ELKHORN CREEK in Franklin County from confluence of North and South forks downstream to Kentucky River

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 12 to 16-inch protective slot limit. Largemouth and smallmouth bass caught between 12 and 16 inches in length must be immediately released. Daily limit of 6 may include no more than 2 fish longer than 16 inches.
- For regulatory purposes, the boundary of Elkhorn Creek is a permanent marker just below the first shoal upstream from its confluence with the Kentucky River.

ELK SPRING CREEK
Wayne County

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

ELMER DAVIS LAKE
Owen County

Possession or use of live shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Largemouth Bass:** 12 to 15-inch protective slot limit. All largemouth bass caught between 12 and 15 inches in length must be immediately released.
- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

FAGAN BRANCH LAKE (also called Lebanon City Lake)
Marion County

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 12 to 15-inch protective slot limit. All largemouth and smallmouth bass caught between 12 and 15 inches in length must be released immediately.

FISHTRAP LAKE

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Crappie:** 9-inch minimum size limit.
- **Blue and Channel Catfish:** 15 fish daily creel limit, only 1 fish in the daily creel limit may be longer than 25 inches.
- **Walleye:** 2 fish daily creel limit; 18- to 26-inch protective slot limit. All walleye caught from 18 to 26 inches long must be immediately released.

FLOYD'S FORK from U.S. 60 bridge downstream to U.S. 150 bridge
Jefferson County

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit, 1 fish daily creel limit.
- **Rainbow Trout:** All trout caught from Oct. 1 through Mar. 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

GENERAL BUTLER STATE PARK LAKE
Carroll County

Possession or use of live shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit, 3 fish daily creel limit.
- **Channel Catfish:** 4 fish daily creel limit, no minimum size limit.

GOLDEN POND (Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area)
- **Channel Catfish:** 15-inch minimum size limit, 5 fish daily creel limit.

GRAYSON LAKE
- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.

GREENBO LAKE
Greenup County

Possession or use of live shad for bait is prohibited.
- **Bluegill and other Sunfish:** 15 fish daily creel limit.
- Areas marked by signage and buoys near the Jesse Stuart Lodge are periodically closed to fishing.

GREEN RIVER LAKE
- **Crappie:** 9-inch minimum size limit.
- **Muskellunge:** 36-inch minimum size limit.

GUIST CREEK LAKE
Shelby County
- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

HATCHERY CREEK
Russell County

Anglers must possess a trout permit to fish Hatchery Creek.
- **Brook, Rainbow and Brown Trout:**
  Upper section: As designated by signs, 5 trout aggregate daily creel limit.
  Lower section: Catch and release only and only artificial baits may be used. The lower boundary of Hatchery Creek is delineated as a straight line between opposite points where Hatchery Creek meets the main stem of the Cumberland River.

KENTUCKY, BARKLEY LAKES (and their connecting canal)
- **Crappie:** 10-inch minimum size limit.
- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Sauger:** 14-inch minimum size limit.

KENTUCKY LAKE TAILWATER – see Tennessee River

KENTUCKY RIVER, upstream of Lock and Dam 14, the North Fork and tributaries including Carr Fork below Carr Creek Lake along with the Middle and South Forks and all tributaries
- **Walleye:** 2 fish daily creel limit, an 18- to 26-inch protective slot limit. All walleye caught from 18 to 26 inches long must be immediately released.

KENTUCKY RIVER WMA BOONE TRACT, Henry County
Benjy Kinman Lake:
- **Largemouth Bass:** No harvest.
- **Catfish:** 4 fish daily creel limit.
- Trolling motor only.

All other ponds:
- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit; 1 fish daily creel limit.
- **Bluegill and other sunfish:** 15 fish daily creel limit.
- **Crappie:** 15 fish daily creel limit.
- **Catfish:** 4 fish daily creel limit.
- Trolling motor only.

KINCAID LAKE
Pendleton County
- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

LAKE BESHEAR
Caldwell County
- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

LAKE BLYTHE
Christian County
- **Largemouth Bass:** 12 to 15-inch protective slot limit. All largemouth bass caught between 12 and 15 inches in length must be immediately released.

LAKE CHUMLEY
Lincoln County

Fishing during daylight hours only.

LAKE CUMBERLAND

The boundaries of Lake Cumberland are defined as Cumberland Falls on the Cumberland River, Devils Jump on the Big South Fork, the Narrows of Rockcastle River and Laurel River Lake Dam on Laurel River.
- **Crappie:** 10-inch minimum size limit.
- **Lake Sturgeon:** Catch and release only.
- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Smallmouth Bass:** 18-inch minimum size limit.
- **Striped Bass:** 22-inch minimum size limit, 2 fish daily creel limit.

LAKE JERICHO
Henry County

Possession or use of live shad for bait is prohibited.
- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.

LAKE MALONE
- **Largemouth Bass:** 12 to 15-inch protective slot limit. All largemouth bass caught between 12 and 15 inches in length must be immediately released.
- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

LAKE REBA
Madison County

Possession or use of live shad for bait is prohibited.
- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit, 3 fish daily creel limit.
- **Blue and Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

LAKE SHELBY
Shelby County
- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit, 3 fish daily creel limit.
- **Channel Catfish:** 4 fish daily creel limit, no minimum size limit.

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
(301 KAR 1:031)

Special fishing regulations are in effect for ponds and small lakes within Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area. For complete fishing information on this area, anglers should contact: Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area, Golden Pond, KY 42231, phone (270) 924-2000.

LAUREL RIVER LAKE
- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Smallmouth Bass:** 18-inch minimum size limit, 2 fish daily creel limit.
- **Crappie:** 9-inch minimum size limit, 15 fish daily creel limit.

LEARY LAKE
Grant County

Fishing during daylight hours only.

LEBANON CITY LAKE – see Fagan Branch Lake

LEFT FORK, BEAVER CREEK
Floyd County

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately

released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

LEVISA FORK OF BIG SANDY RIVER above Fishtrap Lake and all tributaries

- **Walleye:** 2 fish daily creel limit; 18- to 26-inch protective slot limit. All walleye caught from 18 to 26 inches long must be immediately released.

LINCOLN HOMESTEAD STATE PARK LAKE
Washington County

Fishing during daylight hours only. Possession or use of live shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Channel Catfish:** 4 fish daily creel limit, no minimum size limit.
- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit; 3 fish daily creel limit.

MARION COUNTY LAKE

Possession or use of live shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.

MARTIN'S FORK LAKE and all tributaries

- **Walleye:** 2 fish daily creel limit; 18- to 26-inch protective slot limit. All walleye caught from 18 to 26 inches long must be immediately released.

McNEELY LAKE
Jefferson County

Possession or use of live shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Blue and Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

MIDDLE FORK, RED RIVER
Powell County

Within the Natural Bridge State Park, all trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

MILL CREEK LAKE
Powell and Wolfe counties

Possession or use of live shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit; 3 fish daily creel limit.

NEW HAVEN OPTIMIST LAKE
Nelson County

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit, 3 fish daily creel limit.
- **Channel Catfish:** 4 fish daily creel limit, no minimum size limit.

NOLIN RIVER LAKE

Lake upper boundary is the Wheelers Mill Road bridge in the Nolin River arm and to the KY 728 bridge in the Bacon Creek arm.

- **Crappie:** 9-inch minimum size limit.
- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch size limit, except 1 fish in the daily limit or 2 in the possession limit may be less than 15 inches long.

OHIO RIVER – see also, "Bordering Waters" page 15

- **Walleye, Sauger and their Hybrids:** No minimum size limit, 10 fish daily creel limit, singly or combined.
- **White Bass, Striped Bass and their Hybrids:** 30 fish daily creel limit, only 4 fish may be 15 inches or longer.
- **Blue, Channel and Flathead Catfish:** Anglers may keep one blue catfish and one flathead catfish 35 inches or longer and one channel catfish 28 inches or longer daily. No daily creel limit on catfish under those limits.

OTTER CREEK
Meade County

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 12- to 16-inch protective slot limit. All largemouth and smallmouth bass caught between 12 and 16 inches in length must be immediately released; 6 fish daily creel limit, only 1 fish may be longer than 16 inches.

All trout caught in Fort Knox Military Reservation and in Otter Creek Park from Oct. 1 through Mar. 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period. There is a one-mile section of Otter Creek as posted by signs in Fort Knox Military Reservation where trout fishing is open to statewide regulations. Fort Knox Military Reservation requires the purchase of a $10 permit to fish and is closed to fishing on Tuesdays. Anglers must check-in with the Fort Knox Hunt Control Office at (502) 624-2712 before each day's fishing.

PAINT CREEK from the KY 40 bridge downstream to the first U.S. 460 bridge
Johnson County

16-inch minimum size limit and 1 fish daily creel limit on trout and only artificial baits shall be used.

PAINTSVILLE LAKE

- **Largemouth Bass:** 12 to 15-inch protective slot limit. All largemouth bass caught between 12 and 15 inches in length must be released immediately.
- **Smallmouth Bass:** 18-inch minimum size limit.

PARCHED CORN CREEK
Wolfe County

Only artificial baits with single hook shall be used. Brook trout must be immediately released.

PEABODY WMA LAKES

In addition to a fishing license, a $15.00 user permit is required of persons age 16 and over while on Peabody WMA. Permits can be purchased where fishing licenses are sold. Fishing open Mar. 16 - Oct. 14 on Goose, Island and South Lake, all other lakes open year-round.

PIKEVILLE CITY LAKE
Pike County

- **Largemouth Bass:** All largemouth bass caught must be immediately released.

POOR FORK and its tributaries
Letcher County

Downstream to the first crossing of KY 932, only artificial baits with single hook shall be used. Brook trout must be immediately released.

REFORMATORY LAKE
Oldham County

- **Blue and Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

ROCK CREEK from Bell Farm Bridge upstream to Tennessee state line
McCreary County

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

ROUGH RIVER LAKE

- **Crappie:** 9-inch minimum size limit.
- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit except 1 fish in the daily creel limit or 2 in the possession limit may be less than 15 inches long.

SHANTY HOLLOW LAKE
Warren County

Possession or use of live shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

SHILLALAH CREEK
Bell County

Outside the Cumberland Gap National Park as posted, only artificial baits with single hook shall be used. Brook trout must be immediately released.

SPORTSMAN'S LAKES
Franklin County

Fishing during daylight hours only.

SPURLINGTON LAKE
Taylor County

Possession or use of live shad for bait is prohibited.

SWIFT CAMP CREEK
Clifty Wilderness, Wolfe County

All trout caught from October 1 through May 31 must be released immediately and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

SYMPSON LAKE
Nelson County

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.

TAYLORSVILLE LAKE

Lake upper boundary is Dry Dock Road on Salt River.

- **Crappie:** 10-inch minimum size limit, 15 fish daily creel limit.
- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Blue and Channel Catfish:** 15-fish daily creel limit, only 1 fish may be longer than 25 inches.

TENNESSEE RIVER from Kentucky Lake Dam downstream to confluence with Ohio River

The area from Kentucky Dam to the new U.S. 62 bridge will be open to snagging 24 hours per day from January 1 through May 31. From June 1 through December 31, the area is open to snagging from sunset to sunrise. The area of the Tennessee River from the new U.S. 62 bridge to the I-24 bridge is closed to snagging year round. The area from the I-24 bridge to the confluence with the Ohio River is open to snagging year round. There is now a daily snagging creel limit of 8 fish in aggregate and shall not exceed the daily creel limit for any sport fish in which the creel limit is under 8 fish per day. Snagging must cease if any sport fish daily creel limit is attained. All fish snagged including paddlefish, except shad, herring or Asian carp, must be taken into possession and not culled. Snagged fish must not be disposed on the bank. This action is littering and subject to a fine. Snagged paddlefish or their roe cannot be sold. Gigging is prohibited in the Tennessee River below Kentucky Dam. See the Gigging and Snagging section on page 11 for more information.

- **Sauger:** 14-inch minimum size limit.

TRAMMEL CREEK
Allen County

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

- **Brown Trout:** 16-inch minimum size limit, 1 fish daily creel limit.
- **RainbowTrout:** 5 fish daily creel limit.

WILLISBURG PARK POND
Washington County

- **Channel Catfish: 4-fish daily creel-limit, no minimum size limit.**
- **Largemouth Bass: 15-inch minimum size limit, 1-fish daily creel limit.**
- **Sunfish: 15-fish daily creel limit, no minimum size limit.**

WOOD CREEK LAKE
Laurel County

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Walleye:** 2 fish daily creel limit; 18- to 26-inch protective slot limit. All walleye caught from 18 to 26 inches long must be immediately released.

YATESVILLE LAKE

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.

OTHER SPECIES

BULLFROGS
(301 KAR 1:082)

The taking season for bullfrogs opens at noon on the third Friday in May (**May 18, 2018**) and runs through Oct. 31. If a gun or bow and arrow are used, a hunting license is required. If frogs are taken by pole and line, a fishing license is required. If frogs are taken by gig or by hand, then either a hunting or fishing license is valid. The daily noon-to-noon creel limit for bullfrogs is 15. The possession limit is 30.

TURTLES
(301 KAR 1:058)

Anglers may take snapping turtles (except alligator snapping turtles) and softshell turtles year round by the same methods legal for taking rough fish species. Commercial fishing gear may not be used to take turtles. A hunting license is required when taking turtles by gun or by bow and arrow. Otherwise a fishing license is required. Turtles can not be sold.

Turtle traps may be one of two kinds: either a barrel or drum with a tilting trigger board or a floating log raft with an enclosed twine or wire mesh bag. Turtle traps must be inspected daily. All turtles must be removed daily except one decoy turtle may remain. Any other species (except soft shelled and snapping turtles) caught in a turtle trap must be released unharmed.

GRASS CARP HARVEST PROHIBITED
(301 KAR 1:201)

Harvesting grass carp is prohibited in any lake owned or managed by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Anglers who catch a grass carp from one of these lakes must immediately return the fish to the water where it was caught. Grass carp are used to control aquatic vegetation.

LIVE BAIT FOR PERSONAL USE

(301 KAR 1:130, 1:122)

No live fish, live bait fish or live bait organisms that are not native or established in Kentucky waters shall be bought, sold, possessed, imported, or in any way used or released into waters of this Commonwealth. Blueback herring are not native to Kentucky and may not be imported or possessed in this state.

Holders of sport fishing licenses may take live bait from public waters and may possess up to 500 live bait fishes which include shad (except on lakes where possession or use of live shad is prohibited) and herring, 500 crayfish, 25 spring lizards or dusky salamanders, 5 frogs (other than bullfrogs), 5 tadpoles, 100 native lampreys, 500 other aquatic invertebrate organisms other than mussels, and any number of unshelled Asiatic clams. **Live wild caught Asian carp, herring and shad may only be used in the waters from which they were collected.** A commercial license is required to take live bait from public waters open to commercial fishing for the purpose of selling.

Regardless of size or how obtained, it is illegal to use any sport fish for bait (except redear sunfish less than 6 inches long). (Sport fish species listed on page 3). Live bait fishes are defined as redear sunfish less than 6 inches long and rough fish except blackside dace, palezone shiner, Cumberland darter, relict darter and tuxedo darter. Also, see page 21 for a description of these protected fish species. Bluegills are not sport fish and may be taken for bait as described above.

Live bait may be taken with the following gear:

- **Dip Nets:** Maximum size of 3 feet in diameter is legal **statewide**.
- **Minnow Traps:** Maximum legal size statewide: 3 feet long, 18 inches in diameter, 1-inch openings for catching.
- **Seines:** Maximum legal size statewide: 10 feet long, 4 feet deep, ¼-inch mesh. Maximum legal size in the Ohio and Mississippi rivers and Kentucky and Barkley lakes: 30 feet long, 6 feet deep and ¼-inch bar mesh.
- **Sport Cast Nets:** Maximum sport cast net size is 20 feet in diameter with maximum 1-inch bar mesh statewide except in the following waters. Sport cast nets prohibited in: 1) lakes having fewer than 500 surface acres, 2) Hatchery Creek in Russell County.

All sport fish incidentally taken while capturing live bait with seines, dip nets or cast nets must be released immediately unharmed into the water.

KNOW YOUR TURTLES!

COMMON SNAPPING TURTLE
Legal to take

ALLIGATOR SNAPPING TURTLE
Illegal to take

FISHING METHODS

No firearms

Fish may not be taken with use of a firearm.

SPORT FISHING TROTLINES, JUGGING and SET LINES (LIMB LINES)

(301 KAR 1:410; KRS 150.010)

A sport fishing trotline is a line with no more than 50 single or multi-barbed baited hooks that must be at least 18 inches apart. A sport fishing trotline must be set at least three feet below the water's surface. Jugging is fishing with a single baited line attached to any floating object. A jug line may have no more than one single or multi-barbed hook. A set line is a line with one single or multi barbed hook. It may be attached to a tree limb, tree trunk, bank pole or other stationary object on the bank of a stream or impoundment.

One person may use no more than two sport fishing trotlines or 50 jug lines or 25 set lines at any one time. Each boat may not use more than 50 jug lines, but each occupant may use two sportfishing trotlines or 25 set lines. Each sport fishing trotline, jug line or set line must be: **1) permanently labeled with the customer identification number provided on fishing licenses;** 2) baited, checked

Q: What is legal equipment for sport fish?

A: Anglers may legally take sport fish by hook and line in hand, rod in hand, jugging, setline or sport fishing trotline.

and all fish removed at least once every 24 hours; 3) **removed** from water, bank or tree when fishing ceases.

Prohibited Areas: Sport fishing trotlines, jug lines or set lines may not be used within 200 yards below any dam. Sport fishing trotlines, jug lines or set lines are not allowed in Department owned/managed lakes having less than 500 surface acres, except those located on Ballard and Boatwright WMAs. No sport fishing trotlines are allowed within 700 yards below Kentucky Dam, the area between Barkley Dam and U.S. 62 bridge, or below the following Ohio River dams from the face of the dam to the end of the outer lock wall: Smithland, Newburgh, Cannelton, Markland, Meldahl and Greenup; McAlpine downstream to the K&I railroad bridge; J.T. Meyers (Uniontown) to the end of the outer lock wall and that portion of the split channel around the southern part of Wabash Island from the fixed weir dam to the first dike.

GIGGING AND SNAGGING FISH

(301 KAR 1:410, 1:082; KRS 150.010)

Gigging means spearing or impaling fish on any pronged or barbed instrument attached to the end of any rigid object. Snagging means taking fish or other aquatic animals by a rapid drawing motion (rather than enticement by bait) using a hand-held rod and attached line with one single treble hook. Except, in Green River, Rolling Fork River and their tributaries, up to five single or five treble hooks may be used for snagging. A rod legal for snagging must be equipped with line, guides and a reel.

The statewide season for gigging and/or snagging rough fish is from February 1 through May 10. It is illegal to possess a gig on a stream or lake or in a boat from November 1 through January 31. A person may gig or snag fish from the bank of a stream during the day or night. Gigging and snagging is not legal from a platform or boat, except that gigging is legal from a boat on lakes 500 surface acres or larger and only during daylight hours.

There is a statewide limit of 2 paddlefish for either gigging or snagging (except for the Tennessee River below Kentucky Lake and the Cumberland River below Lake Barkley). All gigged or snagged paddlefish must be taken into possession and cannot be culled or released. Anglers must cease gigging or snagging once they attain the 2 paddlefish daily creel limit. It is illegal to sell paddlefish or their roe taken by sportfish snagging methods. No daily limits on any other rough fish. Regardless of condition, all sport fish taken by gigging and snagging must be immediately returned to the water **(except snagging in the Tennessee River below Kentucky Dam. See special regulations on page 9)**.

Persons may gig rough fish through the ice any time the surface is frozen thick enough to stand upon. The gigger must gig while supported by the ice.

Gigging and snagging are prohibited in the following waters or areas:

- Cave Run Lake including all tributaries up to the first riffle (The location of the first riffle may change depending on water level).
- Cumberland River, below Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the Tennessee line including all of Hatchery Creek and all tributaries for ½ mile upstream of their confluence with the Cumberland River.
- Within 200 yards of a dam, except below Kentucky Dam.
- Cumberland River, below Barkley Dam downstream to the U.S. 62 bridge.
- Tennessee River, below Kentucky Dam from the new U.S. 62 bridge to I-24 bridge.
- Middle Fork of Kentucky River from Buckhorn Lake downstream to the Breathitt County line.
- Rough River, below Rough River Dam to KY 54 bridge
- In the Tennessee River below Kentucky Dam, gigging prohibited year-round.

For special regulations concerning gigging and snagging in the Cumberland River below Barkley Dam and in the Tennessee River below Kentucky Lake refer to Special Regulations on pages 6 and 9 of this guide.

TICKLING AND NOODLING

(301 KAR 1:410; KRS 150.010)

The tickling and noodling (hand grabbing) season for rough fish is June 1 through August 31, during daylight hours only. Tickling and noodling means taking fish directly by hand, or with the aid of a handled hook. These methods are permitted in all waters. The daily creel limit is 15 rough fish, no more than 5 of which can be catfish.

Q: May you clean your fish while on the water?

A: Anglers shall not remove any part of the head or tail of any fish for which there is a size or creel limit until finished fishing and off the water.

BOW FISHING

(301 KAR 1:410)

Rough fish (except alligator gar) may be taken year-round by long bow, crossbow, compound bow, recurve bow or pneumatic air arrow launching device. Sport fish may not be taken with this gear. Arrows must have a barbed or retractable style point that has a line attached for retrieval. Catfish have a daily creel limit of 5 (in aggregate) and paddlefish have a daily creel limit of 2. There is no limit on other rough fish. Bow fisherman may fish within 200 yards of a dam, except by boat in boat restricted areas. Bow fishing is prohibited on the Cumberland River below Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the Tennessee line, including Hatchery Creek and all tributaries for ½ mile upstream of their confluence with the Cumberland River.

Persons using a bow and arrow for fishing must have the appropriate fishing license and may take rough fish from bank or boat. Bow anglers cannot sell paddlefish or their roe taken by bow and arrow. Paddlefish and catfish taken by bow and arrow must be taken into immediate possession and cannot be culled. Fish taken by bow must not be discarded on the bank. Bank disposal is littering and subject to a fine.

SPEAR FISHING

(301 KAR 1:410)

Underwater spearing of rough fish with hand-held or mechanically propelled spear is permitted year-round, but only in lakes having 1,000 surface acres or more. All participants in this sport must be submerged while spear fishing. Only rough fish may be taken and the appropriate fishing license is required. The daily limit is 15 fish of which only 5 may be catfish.

LICENSE AND PERMIT FEES (effective March 1, 2018)

	LICENSE / PERMIT	Resident	Nonresident
LICENSES	**Annual Fishing**	$23	$50
	Joint Married Couple Annual Fishing	$42	Not available
	1-Day Fishing	$7	$10
	3-Year Fishing (available online at *fw.ky.gov* only)	$55	Not available
	Nonresident 7-Day Fishing	Not available	$30
	Nonresident 15-Day Fishing	Not available	$40
	Trout Permit	$10	
	Annual Hunting	$27	$140
	1-Day Hunting (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	$7	$15
	7-Day Hunting (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	Not available	$55
	Annual Youth Hunting (ages 12-15 only)	$6	$10
	Shooting Area License (available online at *fw.ky.gov* only)	$5	
	Annual Trapping	$20	$130
	Annual Landowner/Tenant Trapping	$10	Not available
	Annual Youth (ages 12-15) **Trapping**	$5	Not available
COMBOS	**Annual Combination Hunting/Fishing**	$42	Not available
	Senior/Disabled Sportsman's License* (includes same license and permits as Resident Sportsman's License, plus additional deer permits.)	$12	Not available
	Sportsman's License* (Includes combination hunting/fishing, statewide deer permit, spring and fall turkey permits, state migratory game bird-waterfowl permit and trout permit.)	$95	Not available
	Youth (ages 12-15) **Sportsman's License*** (Includes youth hunting license, 2 youth deer permits and 2 youth turkey permits.)	$30	Not available
DEER	**Statewide Deer Permit** (two deer)	$35	$120
	Youth (ages 12-15) **Deer Permit** (one deer)	$10	$15
	Additional Deer Permit (two deer)	$15	
BIRDS	**Spring Turkey Permit** (statewide) (two turkeys)	$30	$75
	Youth (ages 12-15) **Turkey Permit** (one turkey, spring or fall)	$10	$15
	Fall Turkey Permit (statewide)(four turkeys)	$30	$75
	Migratory Bird–Waterfowl Permit	$15	
	Federal Duck Stamp (available at post offices and online at *www.duckstamp.com*)	$25	
	Pheasant Quota Hunt Permit (if drawn)	$25	
ELK	**Elk Drawing Application** (deadline April 30; available online at *fw.ky.gov* only)	$10	
	Youth WMA Elk Drawing Application (deadline April 30; available at *fw.ky.gov* only)	$10	
	Quota Bull Elk Permit (if drawn; available online at *fw.ky.gov* only)	$100	$550
	Quota Cow Elk Permit (if drawn; available online at *fw.ky.gov* only)	$60	$400
	Youth Elk Permit (if drawn; available online at *fw.ky.gov* only)	$30	$40
	Out-of-Zone Elk Permit (Nonresident available online at *fw.ky.gov* only)	$30	$400
BEAR	**Bear Permit**	$30	$250
	Youth Bear Permit	$10	Not available
	Bear Chase Permit	$30	Not available
	Youth Bear Chase Permit	$10	Not available
AREAS	**Peabody WMA User Permit**	$15	
	Land Between The Lakes (LBL) **Hunter Use Permit**	$25, or $35 with Backcountry Camping	
	Otter Creek ORA Admission Fees (per person) (available online at *fw.ky.gov*)	Daily: $3, annual: $30, children under 12: free.	
	Otter Creek ORA Special Activity Fees (per person, for use of horse trails, mountain bike trails and shooting range) (available online at *fw.ky.gov*)	Daily: $7, annual: $70	
OTHER	**Temporary Hunter Education Exemption Permit** (Hunter Apprentice Opportunity; available online at *fw.ky.gov* only)	$5	
	Habitat Improvement and Public Access Donation (voluntary; available at *fw.ky.gov* only)	Any amount	

*Peabody, LBL and Otter Creek permits, elk drawing application, elk quota hunt permit, out-of-zone elk permit, bear permit, federal duck stamp and trapping license not included. An additional deer permit is not included with a Sportsman's License. Kentucky's license year begins March 1 and continues through the last day of February. New licenses are required annually, except for the 3-year fishing license. A 1-day or 7-day hunting license is valid only for the period shown on license. Resident and nonresident youths under the age of 12 are not required to purchase licenses or permits (except the elk drawing application).

HOW TO BUY LICENSES AND PERMITS

GETTING A LICENSE ONLINE

All Kentucky hunting and fishing licenses and permits, except a Joint Married Couple Fishing License, can be purchased through the secured Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website. Replacement licenses can be printed free at *fw.ky.gov.*

GETTING A LICENSE IN PERSON

Licenses and permits can be purchased throughout the Commonwealth. Most department stores, county court clerk offices and outdoor sporting goods stores sell licenses. License vendor locations are listed at *fw.ky.gov.*

GETTING A LICENSE BY PHONE

Licenses and permits can be purchased by phone 24 hours a day. It is the caller's responsibility to know what type of license or permit is needed before calling. Operators should NOT be relied upon to explain licensing requirements. If you are unsure what license or permit you need, refer to previous portions of this guide, or contact Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-858-1549.

All Kentucky hunting and fishing licenses and permits, except a disabled license, elk lottery application and all youth licenses and permits, can be purchased over the phone for a small fee.

By Internet:

Visit *fw.ky.gov*

Persons purchasing online:

1. Must use Visa, Mastercard or Discover;
2. Must provide their name, address, date of birth and Social Security number;
3. Must carry proof of their license/permit in addition to a picture ID while fishing; and
4. **Will not receive a paper license/permit in the mail.**

By phone:

Call toll-free 1-877-598-2401

Persons purchasing by phone:

1. Must use Visa, Mastercard, Discover or e-check;
2. Will be charged a small fee;
3. Must provide their name, address, date of birth and Social Security number;
4. Will be issued a paper license/permit by mail (except short-term licenses);
5. Will be issued an authorization number which serves as a license/permit until paper license/permit is issued; and
6. Must have the authorization number in addition to a picture ID while fishing, if they have not yet received their paper license/permit in the mail.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS AND EXEMPTIONS

License expiration

Annual license/permit authorization numbers are valid from the date of purchase through the last day in February. New licenses are required annually March 1. A temporary fishing license is valid for the period shown on the license. KRS 150.175

WHO NEEDS A LICENSE?

(KRS 150.010, 150.170)

All persons must fill out and carry the proper license and permit to fish any Kentucky waters **except the following** (for permit requirements see "Trout Permit" on this page):

- The resident owner of farmlands, their spouse and dependent children may fish on their land without a license. Tenants, their spouses and dependent children may fish without a license on farmlands where they live and work.
- Resident servicemen on furlough for more than three days may fish statewide without a license, but must carry proper identification and papers showing furlough status.
- Residents and nonresidents ages 15 and younger.
- Persons fishing on the first Saturday and Sunday in June **(June 2-3, 2018)** during Free Fishing Days are not required to have a license or permit.
- Persons fishing within the boundaries of Mammoth Cave National Park.

A resident is anyone who has established permanent and legal residence in Kentucky and resided here at least 30 days immediately prior to applying for a license. Full-time students enrolled in an educational institution for at least a six-month term and service personnel on permanent assignment in Kentucky are also classified as residents. All others are considered non-residents for licensing purposes.

TROUT PERMIT (301 KAR 1:201)

Unless license exempt, anglers who intend to keep trout must have a trout permit ($10). A trout permit is included with the resident senior/disabled combination license and resident sportsman's license. All licensed anglers fishing the portion of the Cumberland River from Wolf Creek Dam to the Tennessee state line, its tributaries up to the first riffle and all of Hatchery Creek are required to possess a trout permit. (See the Trout section in this guide for details and for a complete list of waters where trout are present.)

RESIDENT SPORTSMAN'S LICENSE (SAVE $67!)

Available to Kentucky residents only, the Sportsman's License includes a combination hunting and fishing license, spring turkey permit, fall turkey permit, statewide deer permit, state waterfowl permit (which also covers dove and other migratory bird hunting) and trout permit. Peabody and LBL permits, trapping license, an elk lottery application, elk quota hunt permit (if drawn), out-of-zone elk permit, bear permit and bonus deer permits must be purchased separately. A federal duck stamp (available at post offices) is required for waterfowl hunting.

PAY LAKES (KRS 150.660)

A person fishing in a pay lake licensed by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources needs either a Kentucky fishing license or a free

permit issued by the operator.

FREE FISHING DAYS
(301 KAR 1:210)

Every year Kentucky offers free fishing days the first weekend in June **(June 2-3, 2018)**. On free fishing days no license (including the Kentucky trout permit) is required of residents or nonresidents to fish any Kentucky waters. All other fishing regulations remain in effect. Free fishing days are offered to promote fishing and National Fishing Week.

RESIDENT SENIOR OR DISABLED SPORTSMAN'S LICENSES

The following are eligible to purchase the Senior or Disabled Sportsman's License (which includes the same license and permits as the Resident Sportsman's License, plus additional deer permits):

- Kentucky residents ages 65 or older. Seniors need only show proof of age and residency to purchase this license.
- Kentucky residents certified totally and permanently disabled by the federal Social Security Administration, a state workers' compensation board, the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System or the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board.
- Kentucky resident employees of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management declared totally and permanently disabled by a recognized authority.
- Kentucky resident veterans at least 50% disabled as the result of a service-connected disability.

Persons with disabilities listed above must first obtain a disability authorization card from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

To obtain a disability license authorization card:

If your disability is through the:

- **Federal Social Security Administration:** To request a Benefit Verification Letter (BEVE), you may: (1) go to *www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount*, (2) call 1-800-772-1213 or (3) contact your local office. To request the BEVE on the Social Security website, choose "Create an Account" or "Sign In." Next, click the "Get a Benefit Verification Letter" link. Next select "Customize your letter." The BEVE should include your name, address, date of birth, benefit amount and indicate that you are disabled. Next, choose "Apply to letter" and then "Print." If you contact Social Security, please request all of this information to be included on the BEVE. The BEVE will only include the last four digits of your claim number(s). We ask that you write your entire Social Security Number (SSN) on the BEVE before sending it to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. The full SSN is required in order to process the Hunting/Fishing License application. The BEVE that you send to us should not be over six months old from its date of issue.
- **Veteran's Affairs:** Contact your local VA office and request a letter that verifies you are at least 50 percent disabled as a result of a service-connected disability. The letter should also have your current address and your Social Security number.
- If your disability is through other state or federal agencies call 1-800-858-1549.

Once the proper documentation is processed, applicants will receive their authorization card by mail.

The authorization card is not a license. It must be presented to the license seller, or the authorization number entered online, at the time of purchase.

License vendors cannot sell a disability license using an expired authorization card. The Senior or Disabled Sportsman's License is valid through the end of February each year. If you lose your card or license, you can print a copy of both online using the "My Profile" feature at *fw.ky.gov*.

To send disability paperwork to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife:

- By mail: KDFWR Disability License, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601
- By fax: (502) 564-9845

Q: For how long is a disability authorization card valid?

A: A disability authorization card is good for three years (check the expiration date). Every three years you must provide updated paperwork (following the instructions on this page) and get a new card. Those who already have a disability authorization card through Veterans Affairs, U.S. Railroad Retirement Board or U.S. Office of Personnel Management may call 1-800-310-1873 to get a new card.

LOST LICENSES AND PERMITS

Persons who need a replacement license or permit have three options:

1. Print a replacement online at *fw.ky.gov*. Click on "Licenses," then on "Reprint Your License."
2. Purchase the same type of license or permit from any license vendor, ask them for a license refund form (or print one at *fw.ky.gov*), fill it out and send it to: KDFWR Licensing, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601. You will receive a refund minus a $5 handling fee.
3. Send $5, your name, address, date of birth and Social Security number, and which license(s) or permits you lost to: KDFWR Licensing, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601. The department will replace the license/permit once verification of original purchase occurs. Replacement may take up to 3 weeks.

Carry proof

Holders of Disabled Combination Licenses must carry both the license and authorization card while fishing. Once a person who qualifies for this license reaches age 65, he or she is considered a senior for licensing purposes, and no longer needs to follow the process of obtaining a disability license authorization card.

BORDERING WATERS

All resident Kentucky anglers who fish reciprocal waters must have a valid Kentucky fishing license.

OHIO RIVER FISHING
(KRS 150.170)

An angler with a Kentucky fishing license may fish the entire main stem of the Ohio River from a boat, or a bordering state's bank without buying the other state's license (bordering states include Illinois, Indiana and Ohio).

This does not apply if fishing a bordering state's embayments or tributaries, which begin at a straight line between opposite points where the tributary or embayment meets the main stem of the river.

Anglers fishing from a bordering state's bank must follow the size and creel limits of the state where the angler is located. For example, a Kentucky licensed angler can stand on the Indiana bank and fish the main stem of the Ohio River without an Indiana fishing license, but must abide by Indiana's size and creel limits. However, anglers fishing from a boat must follow the size and creel limits of the state in which the angler is licensed.

Reminder: snagging is not permitted for any fish species on the Indiana side or in any Indiana waters of the Ohio River. In Kentucky, a person may not snag within 200 yards below any dam on the Ohio River.

The Angler's Legacy program aims to mobilize the 7.5 million avid anglers in the United States to "take someone fishing." The program intends to pass the angling legacy down to the next generation. Take the pledge by logging on to *www.anglerslegacy.org* to take a child, friend, co-worker or relative on a fishing trip.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER
(KRS 150.170)

Anglers licensed in Kentucky may fish Missouri portions of the Mississippi River without buying a Missouri fishing license. Each state recognizes the sport fishing licenses and permits of the other state on the Mississippi River. The river is defined as the main channel and immediate side or secondary channels and chutes. It does not include oxbow or floodplain lakes or any tributary streams. A tributary is delineated by the straight line between opposite points where the tributary connects with the main body of the Mississippi River. Furthermore, the river does not include backwaters that extend onto the floodplain or tributaries when the river exceeds 33 feet at the gauging station at Cairo, Illinois.

Sport fishing license or permit holders may fish from, or attach any device or equipment to land along the river under the jurisdiction of the other state. Landowner permission is required to fish from the bank.

Sport fishing license holders shall abide by the regulations in the state in whose waters they are fishing and when fishing in waters they are not licensed to fish, shall comply with the most restrictive regulation.

DALE HOLLOW LAKE

Anglers may use either a Tennessee or a Kentucky sport fishing license while fishing in the Wolf River arm of Dale Hollow Lake. This includes the Illwill Creek embayment beginning at a line crossing the Wolf River at its mouth where it joins the Obey River and the main part of the lake.

Anglers must obey the regulations of the state in which they are licensed. Kentucky residents must have a Kentucky license.

KENTUCKY LAKE

On Kentucky Lake, anglers with either a valid Kentucky or Tennessee sport fishing license may fish from Eggner's Ferry Bridge (U.S. 68 and KY 80) in Kentucky south to the Governor Ned McWhorter Bridge (U.S. 79 and TN 76) in Tennessee. This includes all embayments and tributaries, except the Blood River embayment in Kentucky. Anglers must abide by the fishing and boating regulations of the state in which they are fishing.

BIG SANDY AND TUG FORK RIVERS

Anglers with a valid Kentucky fishing license may fish the entire main stem of the Big Sandy and Tug Fork rivers from the confluence of the Ohio and Big Sandy Rivers upstream to the Virginia state line. Kentucky anglers can fish from a boat or on West Virginia's bank without buying a West Virginia fishing license.

This does not apply to fishing West Virginia's tributaries or embayments, which begin at a straight line between opposite points where the tributary or embayment meets the main stem of the river.

Kentucky anglers fishing from West Virginia's bank must follow their size and creel limits. However, Kentucky anglers fishing the main stem from a boat must follow Kentucky's size and creel limits.

BIG SOUTH FORK OF THE CUMBERLAND RIVER

Anglers may use either a Tennessee or a Kentucky sport fishing license while fishing that portion of the Big South Fork from the Leatherwood Ford bridge (TN 297) in Tennessee to the KY 92 bridge at Yamacraw, Kentucky.

Anglers must obey the regulations of the state in which they are licensed. Kentucky residents must have a Kentucky license.

OTHER BORDERING WATERS

On all other bordering waters, boundaries are set by state lines. Obey the laws of the state in which you are fishing.

GENERAL INFORMATION

FISHING TOURNAMENTS

As a voluntary program, fishing event organizers are strongly urged to use the Tournament web site at *fw.ky.gov/tournamentschedule.aspx* to register and report on their events. Tournament planners can avoid space conflicts with other previously registered events by adjusting the date, time, specific launch areas or weigh-in site for their activities.

Other recreational anglers and boaters can check the web site to see when and where fishing events are scheduled. This will assist them in planning their activities and also help avoid potential space conflicts. Additional permits may be required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Forest Service or Kentucky State Parks.

Check the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website at *fw.ky.gov.*

If the launch site for your tournament involves using a marina ramp, please contact the marina operator before scheduling your tournament.

There are over 1,000 fishing tournaments held annually in Kentucky waters. These can be a valuable source of information to our fishery biologists. Following each scheduled event, tournament organizers are asked to report their catch data directly on the tournament web site or on forms which can be sent via postal mail. Voluntary cooperation from tournament organizers will be used in making fishery management decisions. At the end of the tournament season, a summary of tournament results will be sent to all providers. If not provided with one, contact your local fisheries district office. They will provide a packet.

KEEPING YOUR BASS ALIVE

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife recommends tournament anglers and directors follow some simple procedures to keep bass alive during summer tournaments that run from June through August. Summer tournament fishing places great stress on bass due to high water temperatures. Please refer to the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website at *fw.ky.gov* for a list of these procedures.

Bigger tournaments

Fishing tournaments involving more than 100 boats are regulated and permitted by the Division of Law Enforcement, 1-800-858-1549.

HABITAT

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife regularly creates and maintains fish attractors and habitat structures in lakes across Kentucky. These structures vary in material and benefit sport fish populations while providing anglers productive fishing areas. GPS locations of many of these structures are found at *fw.ky.gov*.

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

Blue-green algae are a type of bacteria found in lakes in Kentucky and throughout the United States. They occur naturally, but if their numbers get too high they can pose health risks to humans and animals. Anglers, hunters, boaters and all others who might use these water resources should be aware of the potential risks associated with these blooms. Both the Kentucky Division of Water and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have initiated testing of lakes in Kentucky to document these blooms and provide updated information to the public. See *fw.ky.gov* for more information.

HAVE YOU SEEN ME?

Kentucky's largest salamander: Eastern Hellbender

Can grow up to 24" long • Completely aquatic • Not aggressive or poisonous • Long lived (up to 30 yrs.)

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife is very interested in all locality records for the eastern hellbender. If you see this giant salamander, please e-mail John MacGregor (*john.macgregor@ky.gov*) with locality information and a photograph, if possible.

Q: Can you sell fish caught while possessing only a valid Kentucky sport fishing license?

A: No. It is illegal to sell any fish caught without the proper commercial fishing license and gear.

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

The Kentucky Departments for Environmental Protection, Health Services and Fish and Wildlife Resources jointly issue a fish consumption advisory to the public when fish are found contaminated. Trace contaminants such as polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), mercury and chlordane are found in some fish in Kentucky. An advisory cautions people about potential health problems that may result from eating fish caught from a particular area. An advisory does not ban eating fish; it is a guide to reduce your risk. This guide provides information on how often fish may be safely eaten. Most fish are healthy to eat and are an excellent source of low-fat protein.

CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES

A new method for reporting fish consumption advisories has been adopted. Consumption rates for specific fish have been developed based on a meal of ½ pound of fish (before cooking) eaten by a 150-pound individual. Following these guidelines and spacing your meals of those fish species will limit your health risks by reducing your total exposure. See table on the next page.

Due to expanded testing on more waterbodies and additional fish species, the fish consumption advisories changed this year due to a wider presence of organic mercury than previously found.

Fish consumption advisories now delineate between predatory fish, bottom feeder fish and panfish. Predatory fish include black bass (smallmouth, largemouth and spotted), white bass, striped bass, hybrid striped bass, sauger, saugeye, walleye, muskellunge, flathead and blue catfish, yellow bass, chain pickerel and all gars.

Panfish include bluegill, crappie, rock bass as well as green, longear and redear sunfish. Bottom feeder fish include the bullheads, buffalo species, channel catfish, common carp, redhorse species, shovelnose sturgeon, drum, creek chub as well as the white, spotted, northern hog and carp suckers.

For the most up-to-date consumption advisory information, please visit *fw.ky.gov*.

Lee McClellan photo

Sensitive population

Women of childbearing age, children 6 years of age or younger, pregnant and nursing women and women who plan to become pregnant should follow the advisories in the "Sensitive Population" category.

STATEWIDE

All waters are under advisory for mercury. Women of childbearing age and children 6 years of age or younger should eat no more than six meals per year of predatory fish and no more than one meal per month of panfish and bottom feeder fish. The general public should eat no more than one meal per month of predatory fish and no more than one meal per week of panfish and bottom feeder fish.

Organic mercury occurs naturally in the environment and does not affect swimmers, skiers or boaters. Fish accumulate low levels of mercury by eating plankton and other small aquatic creatures.

REDUCE YOUR RISK

Risks from eating contaminated fish can be reduced by the following:

- fillet the fish, remove the skin and trim all fat
- do not eat fish eggs
- broil, grill or bake the fillets instead of frying or microwaving
- do not eat or reuse juices or fats that cook out of the fish.

PARASITES AND GRUBS IN FISH

Kentucky anglers will occasionally clean a fish and find a white or yellowish color worm in the fish's flesh that is about the size of a grain of rice. Or, when stream fishing, an angler will encounter a smallmouth bass or sunfish with small black specks on its belly or across its body.

This is a parasitic fluke that requires different host animals to complete its life cycle: a fish eating bird, a snail and a fish. The grub matures and produces eggs inside a host fish-eating bird such as a Great Blue Heron. The eggs enter the water from the bird's droppings or from its mouth. The eggs hatch and tiny larvae of the parasite burrow into a snail. After a time in the snail, the parasite changes form and swims to its next host, a fish. Inside the fish, the parasite changes to a grub form and waits for the fish to be eaten. Then, the cycle repeats.

The angler's first instinct is to discard any fish with either the grubs in the flesh or black specks on the body. Grub-infested fish are safe to eat. Grubs do not infect people. Remove any grubs found and prepare the fish as you normally would.

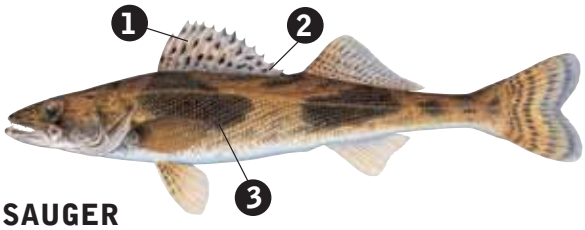
FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

NUMBER OF MEALS PER SPECIES	General Population	Sensitive Population
STATEWIDE		
Predatory fish (mercury)	1/month	6/year
Bottom feeders and panfish (mercury)	1/week	1/month
DRAKES CREEK (from dam on W. Fork at Franklin, KY downstream to confluence with Barren River)		
All species (PCB)	No consumption	
FISH LAKE, Ballard Co. (from lake headwaters to outflow of Shawnee Creek)		
Bottom feeders (mercury)	1/month	6/year
FISHTRAP LAKE, Pike Co. (from VA/KY state line to Fishtrap Lake dam)		
Bottom feeders and white bass (PCB)	1/month	6/year
Predatory fish (PCB)	1/week	1/month
GREEN RIVER LAKE (from lake headwaters to dam)		
Bottom feeders (PCB and mercury)	1/month	6/year
KNOX CREEK, Pike Co. (from VA/KY state line to Tug Fork River)		
Flathead catfish (PCB and mercury)	No consumption	
Bottom feeders (PCB)	6/year	No consumption
Predatory fish (PCB) **and panfish** (PCB and mercury)	1/month	6/year
LITTLE BAYOU CREEK, McCracken Co.		
All species (PCB)	No consumption	
METROPOLIS LAKE, McCracken Co.		
All species (PCB and mercury)	No consumption	
MUD RIVER, Logan Co. (from headwaters to Wolf Lick Creek)		
Bottom feeders (PCB)	No consumption	
Predatory fish and panfish (PCB)	1/month	6/year
MUD RIVER, Butler and Muhlenberg cos. (from Wolf Lick Creek to Green River)		
Bottom feeders (PCB)	1/month	6/year
Predatory fish and panfish (PCB)	1/week	1/month
TOWN BRANCH, Logan Co.		
All species (PCB)	No consumption	
WESTERN KENTUCKY WMA PONDS, McCracken Co.		
All species (mercury)	No consumption	

The Ohio River has different advisories than other Kentucky waters.
Any fish species not listed in the table below falls under a 1 meal per week advisory for mercury.

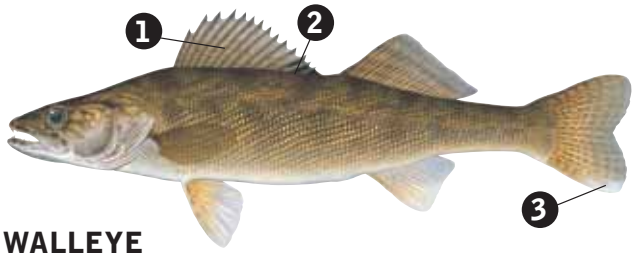
OHIO RIVER, UPPER and MIDDLE REACH (Mouth of the Big Sandy River to J.T. Meyers L&D)		
Common carp (PCB)	1/month	1/month
Channel catfish under 18 inches long (PCB)	1/month	1/month
Channel catfish 18 inches and longer (PCB)	6/year	6/year
Flathead catfish (PCB)	1/month	1/month
Striped, hybrid striped and white bass (PCB)	6/year	6/year
All suckers (PCB)	1/month	1/month
Freshwater drum (PCB)	1/month	1/month
Black bass (largemouth, smallmouth and spotted) (mercury)	1/month	1/month
OHIO RIVER, LOWER REACH (J.T. Meyers L&D to mouth of Ohio River)		
Common carp 22 inches and longer (PCB)	1/month	1/month
Blue catfish 20 inches and longer (PCB)	1/month	1/month
Channel catfish 18 inches and longer (PCB)	1/month	1/month
Flathead catfish (PCB and mercury)	1/month	1/month
Striped and hybrid striped bass (PCB and mercury)	1/month	1/month
White bass (mercury)	1/month	1/month
Freshwater drum 14 inches and longer (mercury)	1/month	1/month
Black bass (largemouth, smallmouth and spotted) (mercury)	1/month	1/month

ANGLER'S FISH IDENTIFICATION GUIDE



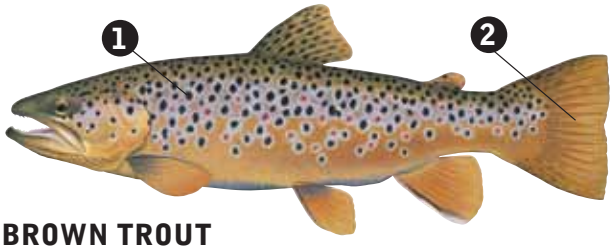
SAUGER

1. Rows of dark spots on spiny dorsal fin, 2. No dark blotch at rear of spiny dorsal fin, 3. Dark saddle-like blotches which extend onto the sides of the body



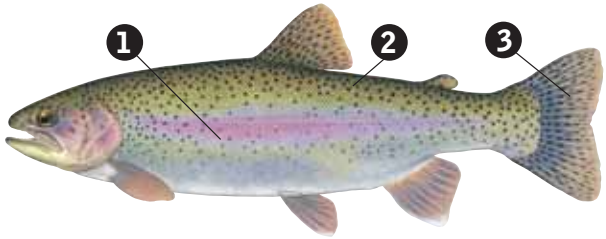
WALLEYE

1. Dark streaks or blotches on spiny dorsal fin, but not distinct spots, 2. Dark blotch at rear of spiny, dorsal fin, 3. White spot on lower lobe of tail fin



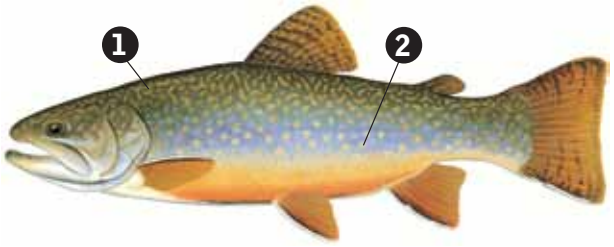
BROWN TROUT

1. Dark spots and orange or red spots with blue halos, 2. No spots on tail fin



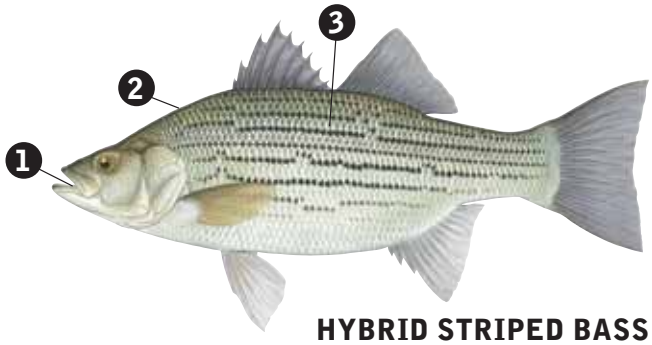
RAINBOW TROUT

1. Pink to red stripe on side, 2. Back and sides heavily speckled, 3. Spots on tail fin



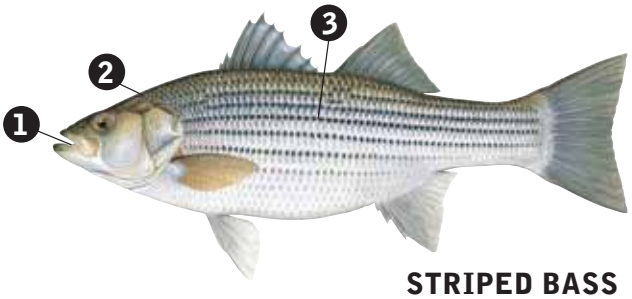
BROOK TROUT

1. Worm-like markings (vermiculations) on upper body, 2. Pale spots on dark background



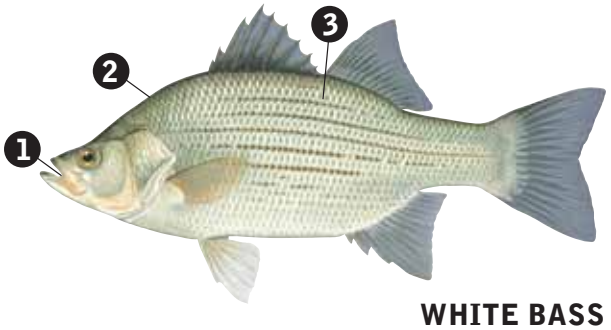
HYBRID STRIPED BASS

1. Tooth patch on tongue consists of two rows of teeth, often partially joined, 2. Back moderately arched, 3. Most stripes are broken, many more than once



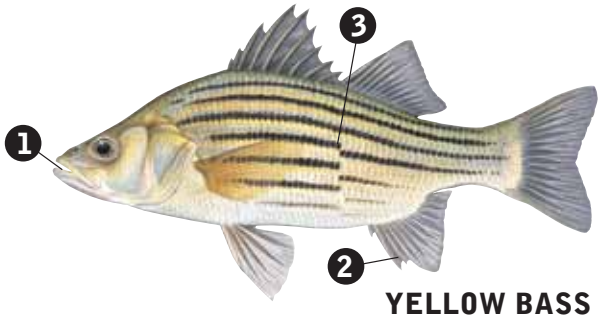
STRIPED BASS

1. Tooth patch on tongue consists of two distinctly split, parallel rows of teeth, 2. Back slightly arched, more streamlined, 3. Stripes very distinct and most extend fully onto tail



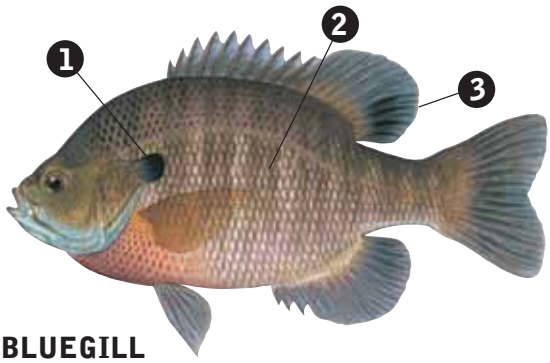
WHITE BASS

1. Single tooth patch on tongue, 2. Back arched, 3. Stripes often faint and irregular



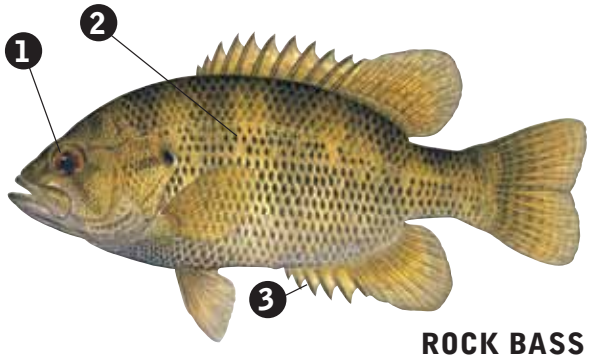
YELLOW BASS

1. No tooth patch on tongue, 2. Second and third anal spines nearly same length, 3. Stripes distinct and broken above anal fin



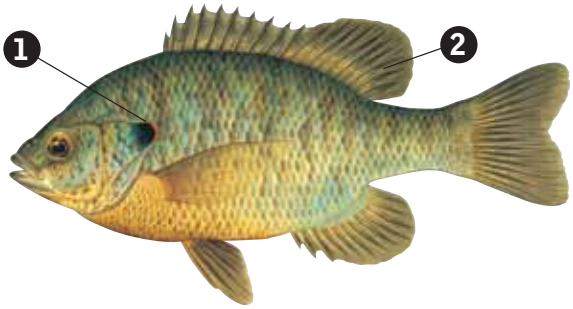
BLUEGILL

1. Gill flap black, 2. Vertical bars on side, 3. Dark blotch at rear of soft dorsal fin



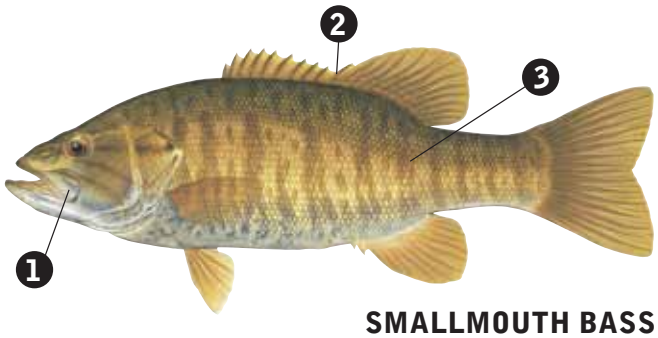
ROCK BASS

1. Eye rimmed in red, 2. Most scales have a dark spot, 3. Anal fin has five or six spines



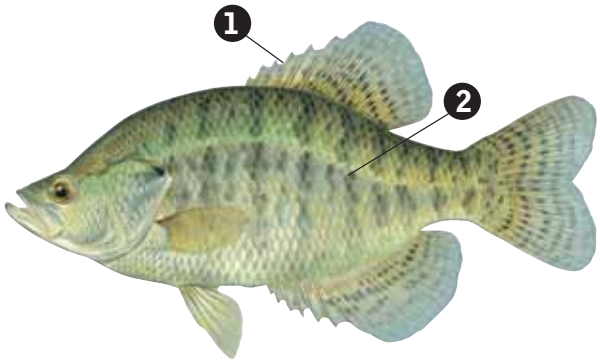
REDEAR SUNFISH

1. Gill flap black with orange or red margin, 2. No dark blotch at rear of soft dorsal fin



SMALLMOUTH BASS

1. Upper jaw does not extend beyond back of eye, 2. Shallow notch between dorsal fins, 3. Bronze colored with vertical bars on side

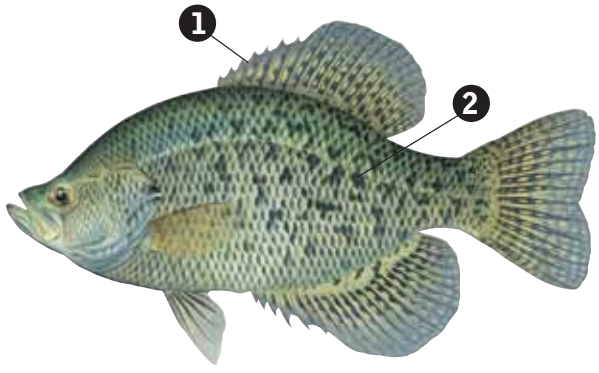


WHITE CRAPPIE

1. Dorsal fin has five or six spines, 2. Vertical bars on side

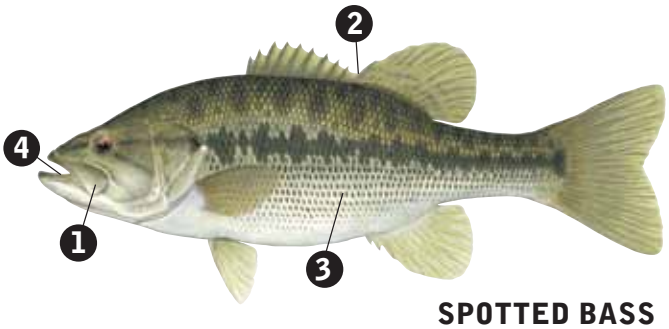
LARGEMOUTH BASS

1. Upper jaw extends beyond back of eye, 2. Dorsal fins separated by deep notch, 3. Tongue usually without tooth patch



BLACK CRAPPIE

1. Dorsal fin has seven or eight spines, 2. Irregular black blotches on side



SPOTTED BASS

1. Upper jaw does not extend beyond back of eye, 2. Shallow notch between dorsal fins, 3. Rows of dark spots below lateral line, 4. Single tooth patch on tongue

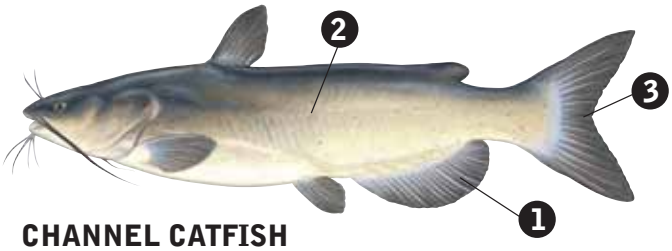
Rick Hill illustrations

MUSKELLUNGE

1. Duck-like bill with sharp teeth, 2. No scales on lower half of cheek and gill flap

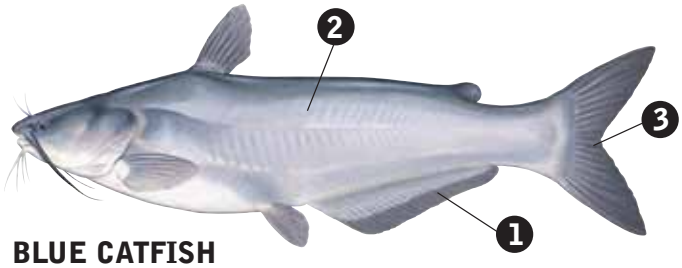
FLATHEAD CATFISH

1. Lower jaw projects far beyond upper jaw, 2. Tail fin not deeply forked, 3. Head is compressed on flathead catfish



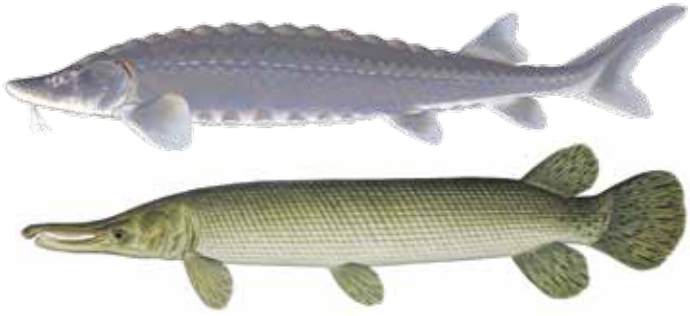
CHANNEL CATFISH

1. Outer margin of anal fin rounded, with 24 to 29 rays, 2. Dark spots usually on body, 3. Tail fin deeply forked



BLUE CATFISH

1. Outer margin of anal fin straight, with 30 to 35 rays, 2. Body without dark spots, 3. Tail fin deeply forked



LAKE STURGEON (top) and ALLIGATOR GAR

Lake sturgeon may not be harvested statewide. Alligator gar are part of a new restoration effort in western Kentucky. If you see or catch these fish, please report the catch or sighting to Matt Thomas at (502) 564-7109. Release caught alligator gar.

KENTUCKY THREATENED AND ENDANGERED FISHES

These five species of fish are protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act. It is illegal to take these fish species and utilize them for any purpose including as live bait for fishing (see page 10).

BLACKSIDE DACE

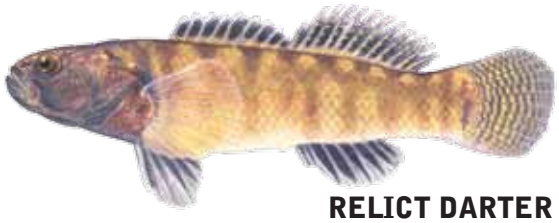
Found only in small (wadeable) streams in the Upper Cumberland River Basin including Letcher, Harlan, Bell, Whitley, Knox, McCreary, Pulaski and Laurel counties.

CUMBERLAND DARTER

Found only in small (wadeable) streams in the Upper Cumberland River drainage including Whitley and McCreary counties.

PALEZONE SHINER

Found only in the Little South Fork of the Cumberland River in McCreary and Wayne counties.



RELICT DARTER

Found only in the Bayou du Chien River in Hickman and Graves counties.

TUXEDO DARTER

Found only in the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River in McCreary County.

AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES

It's the law

No live fish, live minnow, or live bait organisms not native or established in Kentucky shall be bought, sold, possessed, imported, or in any way used or released into Kentucky waters.

Sport anglers unintentionally and intentionally stock fish in Kentucky's public waters. These species mainly include gizzard shad and alewives that are present in several water bodies. Gizzard shad have been illegally released in several small public lakes where they previously were not present. They interfere with the lake's ability to support a quality bluegill population. Alewives are a non-native fish illegally stocked into several Kentucky lakes. The total impact of these fish is not known, but they are known to eat young fish, including sport fishes.

Additionally, there are many non-native aquatic species that invaded the country, particularly in Great Lake states. These include both plants and animals such as Eurasian watermilfoil, Asian carp, hydrilla, spring water flea, and zebra mussels.

ASIAN CARP

Three species of Asian carps (bighead, silver and grass) are reproducing at alarming rates and threaten Kentucky's aquatic ecology. These fish are outcompeting native fishes for forage and becoming overpopulated. Silver carp, because of their propensity to jump, can be harmful to recreational boaters. These carp species can produce over 1 million eggs per large adult each year. In areas where conditions are suitable for reproduction, their numbers cannot be controlled without support from commercial fishing.

Very young Asian carp can be easily mistaken as shad or skipjack herring. **All bait collectors using cast or dip nets should never dispose of any live bait into other water bodies due to the potential threat of spreading these aquatic nuisance species.**

HELP KEEP OUT NON-NATIVE SPECIES

- CLEAN your boat and trailer before launching into or leaving any waterbody.
- REMOVE all plants and animals.
- DRAIN all water from bilges and livewells.
- DISPOSE of unwanted live bait on shore – DO NOT STOCK THE LAKE!
- RINSE your boat, trailer and equipment with high pressure hot water.
- DRY everything for at least five days.

ZEBRA MUSSELS

Kentucky has zebra mussels present in our waters and are at nuisance levels in the Ohio River. They attach themselves to any solid submerged surface in a cluster, reproduce rapidly, and pose a serious threat to native freshwater mussel populations. These mussels have elongated pointed shells less than two inches long with a zebra like pattern of stripes. Zebra mussels can live 8 to 10 days out of water and can be transported to another water body while attached to a boat.

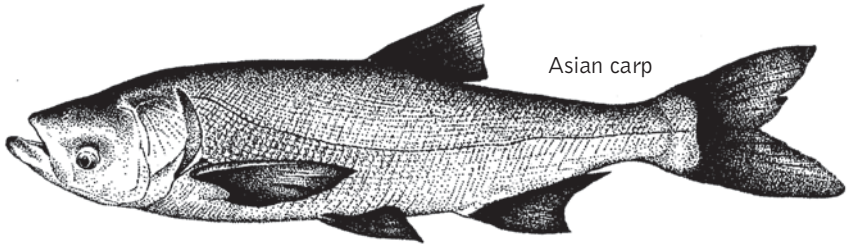
HYDRILLA

Hydrilla is an exotic plant invading Kentucky through transfer of plant fragments by boats and personal watercraft. All it takes is a small fragment of the plant to start a new colony. This plant forms extremely dense mats that grow to the surface of the waterbody making boating and swimming difficult. It literally fills shallow areas from top to bottom with vegetation.

Hydrilla also chokes out native plants and displaces fish. It is extremely difficult to eradicate once it becomes established.

In order to limit the spread of this nuisance plant, please check all trailer parts, boat motor and other equipment for mud or pieces of plant and remove before leaving the lake.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife is beginning an effort to educate the public about the harmful effects of discarded fishing line on the environment. Recycle used monofilament fishing line by placing it in collection bins on lakes across the state.



Asian carp

TROUT WATERS

TROUT REGULATIONS

SPORT FISH SPECIES	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Minimum Size Limit
Rainbow trout	8	16	none
Brown trout	1	2	16"
Brook trout*	Catch and release only (except on Cumberland River)		

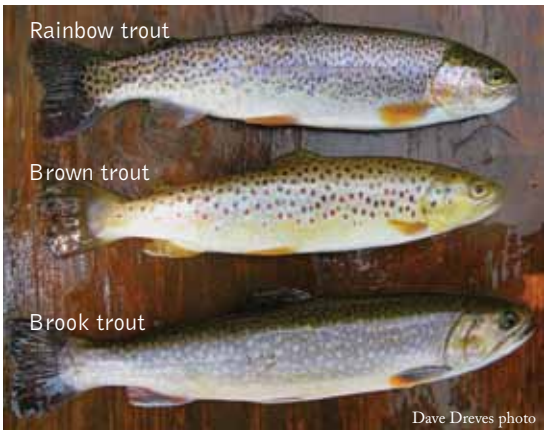
*See "Catch and Release Brook Trout Streams" on page 26 and special regulations for Cumberland River on page 6.
All trout stockings in streams, lakes or tailwaters are subject to weather and road conditions. Check the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website at *fw.ky.gov* for the list of monthly trout stockings.

EXCEPTIONS

On the Dix River (Herrington Lake tailwaters), fishing is permitted with artificial baits only. Live or organic bait may not be possessed while fishing this two-mile section of Dix River. The only public access to Dix River below Herrington Dam is via the Kentucky River.

The Cumberland River below Lake Cumberland from the Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the Tennessee state line is a trophy brown trout area. A 20-inch minimum size limit and a one fish daily creel limit applies to brown trout. A 15- to 20-inch protective slot limit on rainbow trout is in effect for the same section of the Cumberland River. All rainbow trout caught between 15 and 20 inches must be immediately released. Only one rainbow trout of the five fish daily creel limit may be longer than 20 inches. Brook trout have a 1 fish daily creel limit with 15-inch minimum size limit. All anglers on this section of the Cumberland River, including all tributary streams up to the first riffle and all of Hatchery Creek, must possess a valid Kentucky trout permit (regardless of species sought). Anglers may not chum or cull trout.

On Hatchery Creek in Russell County, the upper section as designated by signs has a 5 trout aggregate daily creel limit. The newly constructed lower section is open for catch and release only for all trout species and only artificial baits may be used.



Dave Dreves photo

The lower boundary of the lower section of Hatchery Creek is delineated as a straight line between opposite points where Hatchery Creek meets the main stem of the Cumberland River.

On Paint Creek in Johnson County (Paintsville Lake tailwater), there is a 16-inch minimum size limit and one fish daily creel limit on trout from the KY 40 bridge downstream to the first U.S. 460 bridge crossing. Only artificial baits may be used.

On Chimney Top Creek, including Right Fork Chimney Top Creek (Wolfe County), there is a 16-inch minimum size limit and one fish daily creel limit for brown trout and only artificial baits may be used.

On Trammel Creek in Allen County, there is a 16-inch minimum size limit and a one fish daily creel limit on brown trout and a five fish daily creel limit on rainbow trout. There is no harvest of trout during the catch and release season from Oct. 1 through March 31.

TROUT STOCKING

STREAMS

The streams listed on the following pages are stocked with rainbow trout by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during the months indicated. Brown trout are stocked once each year for a put-grow-take fishery. All trout are produced at Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery. Visit *fw.ky.gov* for a list of monthly trout stockings.

CATCH AND RELEASE STREAMS

Some streams indicated in the table have a catch and release season (no harvest) from Oct. 1 through March 31, except in Swift Camp Creek where the catch and release season is Oct.1 through May 31. During the catch and release season, only artificial baits shall be used and all trout caught must be immediately released.

STREAMS

STATEWIDE STREAMS	County	Total Rainbows	Months	Total Browns	Catch and Release (No Harvest) Season
Bark Camp Creek*	Whitley	3,750	3,4,5,6,10	500	Oct. 1 - Mar. 31; 3.9 miles
Beaver Creek	Wayne	1,500	4,5,10		Oct. 1 - Mar. 31; Hwy 90 bridge upstream to Hwy 200 bridge – 2.8 miles
Big Bone Creek	Boone	1,200	4,5,10		Oct. 1 - Mar. 31; inside the Big Bone Lick State Park – 2.1 miles
Big Caney Creek	Elliott	2,500	4,5,10	250	
Cane Creek*	Laurel	3,750	3,4,5,6,10		Oct. 1 - Mar. 31; 6.6 miles
Casey Creek	Trigg	8,000	2,4,5,6,7,8,9,10		Oct. 1 - Mar. 31; 3.6 miles
Chimney Top Creek*	Wolfe		10	450	
Clear Creek	Bell	1,200	4,10		Oct. 1 - Mar. 31; Hwy 190 bridge down stream to mouth – 4.5 miles
Craney Creek*	Rowan	1,000	10		
East Fork, Indian Creek*	Menifee	3,875	3,4,5,10	400	Oct. 1 - Mar. 31; 5.3 miles
East Fork,Little Sandy River	Boyd	400	4		
Elk Spring Creek	Wayne	1,600	4,5,6,10		Oct. 1 - Mar. 31; 2.8 miles
Floyds Fork	Jefferson	3,600	3,4,10		Oct. 1 - Mar. 31; US 60 downstream to US 150 – 20 miles
Goose Creek	Casey	1,000	4,5		
Greasy Creek	Leslie	400	4		
Hatchery Creek (upper)	Russell	27,000	monthly		
Jennings Creek	Warren	7,000	4,5,6,7,8,9,10	500	
Laurel Creek	Elliott	2,750	4,5,10	250	
Left Fork, Beaver Creek	Floyd	1,200	4,5,10		Oct. 1 - Mar. 31; Hwy 122 bridge upstream – 3.6 miles
Looney Creek	Harlan	1,500	4,5,10	700	
Lynn Camp Creek	Hart	2,500	4,5,6,7,10		
Middle Fork, Red River*	Powell/Wolfe	2,600	3,4,5,10		Oct. 1 - Mar. 31; inside of Natural Bridge State Park – 2.2 miles
North Fork, Triplett Creek*	Rowan	1,050	3,4,5		
Otter Creek, Fort Knox **Otter Creek ORA**	Meade	7,500 7,500	3,4,6,7,8,9,10 2,3,4,5,10,11	500 (fort only)	Oct. 1 - Mar. 31; Ft. Knox Military Reservation and Otter Creek ORA – 9.7 miles
Raven Creek	Harrison	400	4		
Right Fork, Beaver Creek	Floyd	1,200	4,5,10		
Right Fork, Buffalo Creek	Owsley	500	4,5		
Rock Creek*	McCreary	15,125	3,4,5,6,9,10, 11,12		Oct. 1 - Mar. 31; Bell Farm bridge upstream to Tennessee border – 9.8 miles
Round Stone Creek	Hart	2,800	4,5,6,7,8,9,10	200	
Royal Springs	Scott	1,200	5,6,7		
Russell Fork	Pike	2,250	4,5,10		
Sinking Creek	Breckinridge	1,200	4,5,6		
Station Camp Creek	Estill	750	4		
Sturgeon Creek	Lee	400	4		
Sulphur Spring Creek	Simpson	3,000	4,5,6,7,8,9,10	200	

STATEWIDE STREAMS (continued)	County	Total Rainbows	Months	Total Browns	Catch and Release (No Harvest) Season
Swift Camp Creek*	Wolfe	1,000	4,10		Oct. 1 - May 31; within Clifty Wilderness Area – 8.0 miles
Trammel Creek	Allen	8,750	4,5,6,7,8,9,10	600	Oct. 1 - Mar. 31 – 4.4 miles
Triplett Creek	Rowan	1,200	3,4,5		
War Fork*	Jackson	2,500	3,4,5,6,10		
West Hickman Creek (Veteran's Park)	Fayette	1,000	2,10		

*Daniel Boone National Forest stream; stockings are not announced.

Get permission

Many of the streams listed in this guide are located on, or adjacent to, privately owned lands. Anyone entering upon or crossing private property must have the permission of the land owner.

TAILWATERS

The following tailwaters receive rainbow and brown trout. Stocking begins in spring and continues into the late fall; monthly totals will vary. Monthly schedules are available through Kentucky Fish and Wildlife by calling 1-800-858-1549 or logging on to *fw.ky.gov*.

Leave a note

When planning a boating trip, leave a note, or float plan, with someone to let them know where you are. Include your departure and expected return times, the waters where you will be boating, a description and/or license number of the vessel and where you can be reached in case of emergency.

TAILWATERS	Total Rainbows	Total Browns	Months
Buckhorn	5,000	0	4,5,6,10,11
Carr Creek	5,000	0	4,5,6,10,11
Cave Run	6,800	0	4,5,6,10,11
Cumberland*	157,200	31,000	4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11
Dewey	4,000	0	4,5,10,11
Fishtrap	10,000	0	4,5,6,10,11
Grayson	5,000	0	4,5,6,10,11
Herrington	4,500	0	1,3,5,7,11
Laurel River	500	250	3,4,5,6,10
Martins Fork	3,750	0	4,5,6,10,11
Nolin River	9,000	250	4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11
Paintsville	20,000	300	4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11
Taylorsville	3,000	0	4,5,6,11
Yatesville	2,250	0	4,5,11

*Stocking dates for Cumberland River (Lake Cumberland tailwater) will not be announced. Also, sterile rainbow trout and brook trout are stocked in March.

THREAT TO TROUT FISHERIES

The invasive algae known as Didymo (Didymosphenia geminata) recently appeared in the Cumberland River (Lake Cumberland tailwater). Didymo, native to northern Europe and Canada, is a white, gray, light brown or beige mass on the stream bottom that resembles shag carpet. Didymo can choke the stream bottom with mats that cover up native plants and crowd out native insects that trout need for food.

To prevent the spread of Didymo into other Kentucky tailwaters and streams, anglers who fish the Cumberland River and out-of-state waterways should:

- Inspect all wading gear and boat hulls, livewells, lower units and trailers for any vegetation after leaving the water and remove.
- If algae or vegetation is discovered later, 1. disinfect with a 2 percent solution of household bleach or, 2. a 5 percent solution of salt or, 3. you may also soak in undiluted vinegar. 4. Allow to air dry for at least 2 days.

LAKES

The lakes below are stocked with rainbow trout in the months indicated. January-March stockings are scheduled based on weather and road conditions.

LAKES	Acres	Total Trout	Months
Alexandria Community Park Lake	7	4,500	2,3,11
Anderson Co. Community Park	1	1,500	2,3,11
Bert Combs	36	4,000	1,4,5,10
Beulah	87	4,000	1,4,5,10
James D. Beville Park	3	1,500	1,3,10
Bloomfield Park	2	1,500	2,3,11
Bob Noble Park	6	4,500	2,3,10
Boulder Pond, Parklands	1	800	3,10
Brickyard Pond	10	2,700	2,11
Camp Ernst	25	4,500	2,3,11
Cannon Creek	243	9,000	2,3,10
Cherokee Park	4	2,500	2,3,10
Cranks Creek	219	5,000	1,4,5,10
Eagle Lake	19	2,000	2,3, 10,11
Easy Walker Park	2	1,500	2,3,11
Fagen Branch	126	2,000	3,11
Fisherman's Park #3 and #4	4 (2 lakes)	3,000	2,3,10
Fish Pond	32	5,000	1,4,5,10
Flemingsburg Old Reservoir	11	2,700	2,11
Grant's Branch	22	4,000	3,11
Greenbo	181	11,000	2,10
Highsplint	6	2,750	1,10
Jacobson Park	46	9,000	2,3,10
Kentucky Horse Park Rolex Lake	6	2,700	2,11
Kess Creek Park Lake	2	1,500	2,3,10
Ky. River WMA Boone Tract, Six Acre Lake	6	2,000	2,10
Kingdom Come State Park	3	2,500	1,3,10
Laurel River	6,060	45,000	1
Leary Lake	5	4,500	2,3,11
Logan Hubble Park Lake	9	4,500	2,3,11
Lower Sportsman's	3	1,500	2,3,10
Lusby	2	1,500	2,3,11
Madisonville City Park Lake, South	25	4,500	2,3,10
Martin Co. Reservoir	22	2,500	11

LAKES (continued)	Acres	Total Trout	Months
Maysville-Mason Co. Park Lake	12	2,700	2,11
Metcalfe Co.	22	500	3
Middleton Mills Park, Long Pond	1	1,500	2,3,10
Middleton Mills Park, Shelterhouse	1	1,500	2,3,10
Mike Miller Park	4	2,500	2,3,10
Mill Creek	41	6,000	1,3,5,10
Millennium Park Pond	2	1,500	2,3,11
Martin Co. (Milo) Lake	5	3,750	2,11
Mingo	2	1,500	2,3,10
Morton's Lake, Higginson/Henry WMA	1	500	2
Paintsville	1,139	4,500	2
Panbowl	75	6,000	3,10
Panther Creek Park	4	2,500	2,3,10
Peabody WMA, Access Pond	1	2,250	1,11
Peabody WMA, Flycatcher Pond	1	1,500	1,11
Peabody WMA, Rob's Pond	11	1,500	1,11
Pikeville City Lake	24	2,500	3,11
Pollywog	4	2,500	2,3,11
Prisoner's	4	2,500	2,3,10
Rotary Park Lake	1	1,500	2,3,10
Sandy Watkins Park Lake	3	1,000	2
Scott Co. Park	3	1,500	2,3,11
Southgate	2	1,500	2,3,11
Southland Church Lake	3	1,500	2,3,10
Three Springs	29	4,500	1,3,11
Tom Wallace Park	5	4,500	2,3,10
Upper Sportsman's	7	4,500	2,3,10
Waverly Park	5	4,500	2,3,10
Waymond Morris Park Lake	5	4,500	2,3,10
Whitehall Park Lake	6	4,500	2,3,10
William F. Miles Angler Lake, Parklands	4	2,500	2,3,10
William F. Miles Green Heron Lake, Parklands	1	1,500	2,3,10
Wood Creek	672	8,000	2,10
Yellow Creek Park	3	1,500	2,3,10

OTHER AREAS

FORT CAMPBELL AND FORT KNOX

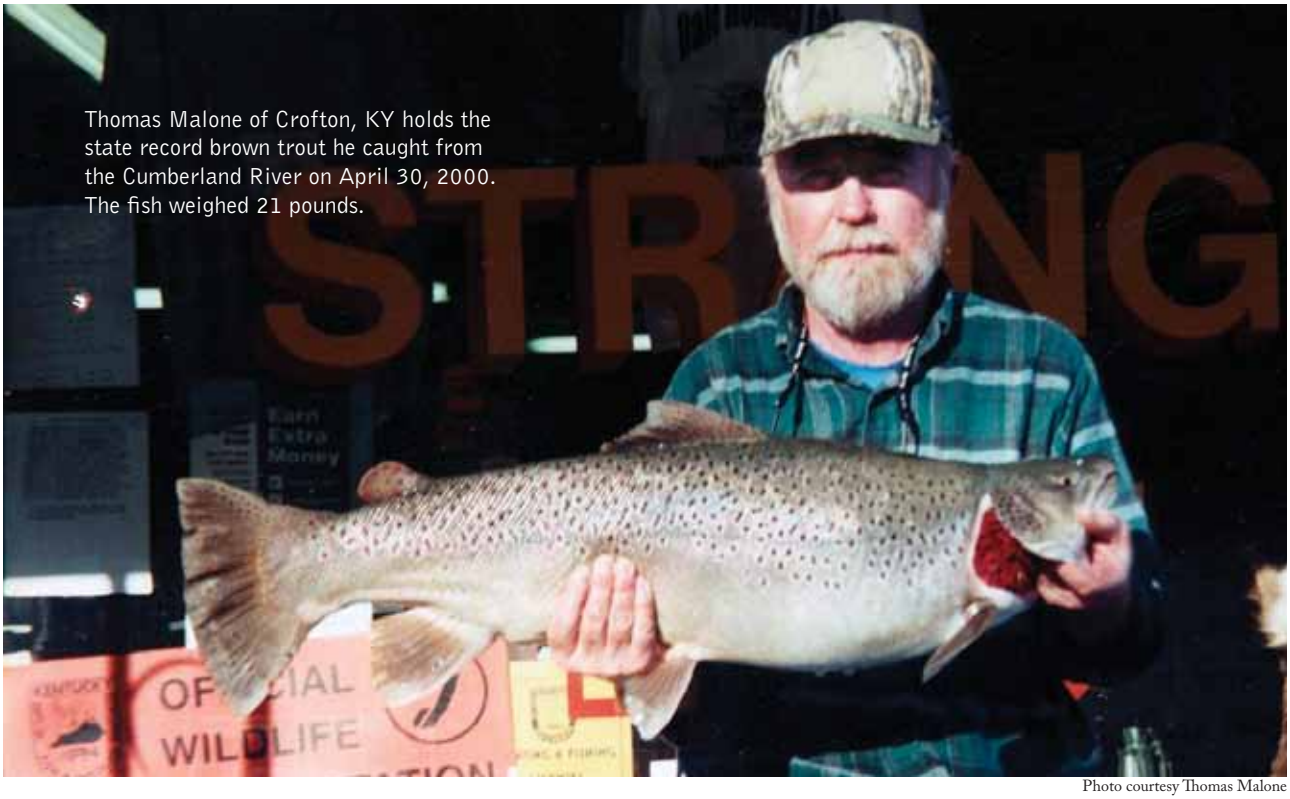
Little West Fork, Fletchers Fork and Kinser Pool on Fort Campbell (Tennessee portion) and Otter Creek on Fort Knox (Bullitt, Meade and Hardin counties) military reservations are stocked with rainbow or brown trout. Special fishing regulations apply and a post fishing permit is required in addition to a valid Kentucky fishing license and trout permit. Contact Community Recreation Division, Hunting and Fishing Unit, Fort Campbell, KY 42223-5000; phone: (270)798-2175 or Hunt Control Office, Fort Knox, KY; phone: (502) 624-2712.

CATCH AND RELEASE BROOK TROUT STREAMS

Four streams are catch and release only year-round and only artificial flies and lures with a single hook may be used on these streams:

- Dog Fork – Wolfe County
- Parched Corn Creek – Wolfe County
- Poor Fork – Letcher County, from the headwaters to first crossing of KY 932
- Shillalah Creek – Bell County, outside the Cumberland Gap National Historic Park

TROPHY FISH



Thomas Malone of Crofton, KY holds the state record brown trout he caught from the Cumberland River on April 30, 2000. The fish weighed 21 pounds.

Photo courtesy Thomas Malone

TROPHY FISH/MASTER ANGLER AWARD PROGRAM

Anglers who catch, by pole and line, any **one** fish meeting the length requirements below may qualify for the Trophy Fish/Master Angler Awards Program. Anglers who catch **three different species** of trophy status are eligible for the Master Angler Award. There is no time limit in which the three different species must be caught, but each catch must be documented and registered as a trophy fish with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife since the program began in 1987. Species counted toward a Master Angler Award may not be duplicated.

Anglers qualifying for a Kentucky Trophy Fish Award will receive a collectable Kentucky Trophy Fish lapel/hat pin. An angler may only receive one pin per year, but each Trophy Fish caught counts toward the Master Angler Award.

All applications for Trophy Fish/Master Angler Award must be received by Feb. 1 the following year to qualify for a lapel/hat pin.

Anglers must register at *fw.ky.gov* to receive their lapel/hat pin and Trophy Fish Certificate. A photo of the catch must be submitted along with the Trophy Fish/Master Angler application.

Complete details are available by calling 1-800-858-1549 or online at *fw.ky.gov*.

ELIGIBLE SPECIES	Minimum length
Blue Catfish	35″
Bluegill	10″
Bowfin	25″
Brook Trout	11″
Brown Trout	20″
Bullhead Catfish	14″
Common Carp	35″
Chain Pickerel	24″
Channel Catfish	28″
Crappie	15″
Flathead Catfish	35″
Freshwater Drum	25″
Gar	40″
Hybrid Striped Bass	23″
Kentucky (Spotted) Bass	16″
Largemouth Bass	23″
Muskellunge	40″
Rainbow Trout	20″
Redear Sunfish	10″
Redbreast Sunfish	10″
Rock Bass	10″
Sauger	18″
Smallmouth Bass	20″
Striped Bass	36″
Walleye	25″
White Bass	16″
Yellow Perch	10″

STATE RECORD FISH PROGRAM

To qualify for the state record fish program, fish must be caught in Kentucky waters by a rod and reel or pole and line only. Fish taken on commercial gear, by trotlines, limb lines, jugging, gigging, snagging, by hand or bow fishing are not eligible.

Fish need to be weighed on a scale certified for legal trade and witnessed by three people who must sign the record application. The fish must be identified in person by KDFWR fishery biologist or the manager of Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery and not filleted, gutted or cut up.

Applications for the state record fish program are available by calling 1-800-858-1549 or online at f*w.ky.gov* or from your District Fisheries Office:

WESTERN FISHERY DISTRICT
Adam Martin
Murray, (270) 753-3886

NORTHWESTERN FISHERY DISTRICT
Rob Rold or Jeremy Shiflet
Calhoun, (270) 273-3117

SOUTHWESTERN FISHERY DISTRICT
Eric Cummins or Kayla Gerber
Bowling Green, (270) 746-7127

CENTRAL FISHERY DISTRICT
Jeff Crosby or David Baker
Frankfort, 1-800-858-1549

NORTHEASTERN FISHERY DISTRICT
Tom Timmermann or Justin Heflin
Morehead, (606) 783-8650

EASTERN FISHERY DISTRICT
Kevin Frey or Jason Russell
Prestonsburg, (606) 889-1705

SOUTHEASTERN FISHERY DISTRICT
Marcy Anderson
Somerset, (606) 677-4096

MINOR CLARK FISH HATCHERY
Rod Middleton, Pete Besant or
Scott Barrett, Morehead, (606) 783-8650

PFIEFFER FISH HATCHERY
Josh Pennington, Noah Nelson or
Graham Howell
Frankfort, (502) 564-4957

SPECIES	Weight	Caught By	Location	Date
ANCIENT FISH				
Bowfin	15.08 lbs.	Norman Moran, Lexington, KY	Green River	05/31/99
Longnose Gar	40 lbs.	Kelsie Travis, Jr., Paducah, KY	Ohio River	08/08/56
Paddlefish (Spoonbill)	106 lbs.	William Chumbler, Calvert City, KY	Ohio River	03/23/04
Sturgeon	36 lbs. 8 oz.	Barney Frazier, Corbin, KY	Lake Cumberland	10/03/54
BLACK BASS				
Kentucky (Spotted) Bass	7 lbs. 10 oz.	A.E. Sellers, Louisville, KY	Private lake, Nelson Co.	06/13/70
Largemouth Bass	13 lbs. 10 oz.	Dale Wilson, London, KY	Wood Creek Lake	04/14/84
Smallmouth Bass*	11 lbs. 15 oz.	David L. Hayes, Leitchfield, KY	Dale Hollow Lake	07/09/55
Coosa Bass	1.21 lbs.	Seth Goodin, Smith, KY	Martins Fork River	05/25/13
TEMPERATE BASS				
Striped Bass (Rockfish)	58 lbs. 4 oz.	Roger Foster, Somerset, KY	Lake Cumberland	12/11/85
Hybrid Striped Bass	20 lbs. 8 oz.	Mark Wilson, Louisville, KY	Barren River	04/27/91
White Bass	5 lbs. (TIE)	Lorne Eli, Dawson Springs, KY	Kentucky Lake	07/11/43
		B.B. Hardin, Mt. Eden, KY	Herrington Lake	06/03/57
Yellow Bass	1 lb., 6.4 oz.	William Hinton, Central City, KY	Cumberland River, Lake Barkley tailwaters	03/19/09
CARP/SUCKER				
Bighead Carp	64 lbs.	Drew Fulmer, Florence, KY	Kentucky Lake	07/19/10
Blue Sucker	8.34 lbs.	Stacey L. Boik, Evansville, IN	Ohio River	11/22/09
Buffalo (Smallmouth)	55 lbs.	Clinton Roby, Waddy, KY	Kentucky Lake	03/23/00
Common Carp	54 lbs. 14 oz.	Ricky Vance, Paris, KY	South Fork, Licking River	03/13/71
Creek Chub	0.59 lbs	Joshua Scott, Louisville, KY	Otter Creek, Hardin Co.	03/26/06
Golden Redhorse	4 lbs. 5 oz.	Leif Meadows, Stanton, KY	Red River	04/22/98
Grass Carp	58 lbs. 8 oz.	Robert Marsh, Erlanger, KY	Cemetary Lake, Kenton Co.	06/17/09
Northern Hog Sucker	1 lb, 12 oz.	Larry Salchli, Stanton, KY	Slate Creek, Bath Co.	04/07/05
River Redhorse	9 lbs. 1 oz.	Denny Hatfield, London, KY	Rockcastle River	09/20/03
Silver Carp	11 lbs. 2 oz.	Jonathan Seitzinger, Paducah, KY	Ohio River	05/14/15

SPECIES (cont.)	Weight	Caught By	Location	Date
Silver Redhorse	5 lbs. 6 oz.	Justin Collins, London, KY	Rockcastle River	04/17/10
White Sucker	1 lb. 10 oz.	Larry Salchli, Stanton, KY	Slate Creek, Montgomery Co.	03/19/98
CATFISH				
Blue Catfish	104 lbs.	Bruce Midkiff, Owensboro, KY	Ohio River	08/28/99
Bullhead Catfish	5 lbs. 8 oz.	Randy Kirk, Maysville, KY	Private Pond, Mason County	07/06/13
Channel Catfish	32 lbs.	Kyle Estep, South Point, OH	Ohio River	05/26/04
Flathead Catfish	97 lbs.	Esker Carroll	Green River	06/06/56
White Catfish	5.27 lbs.	Ethen Vest, Frankfort, KY	Guist Creek Lake	10/11/16
DRUM				
Freshwater Drum	38 lbs.	Larry Cardwell, Morgantown, KY	Green River	06/05/80
HERRING				
Skipjack Herring	3.10 lbs.	Joey Dixon, Elizabethtown, KY	Ohio River	04/14/06
MOONEYE				
Goldeye	2.64 lbs.	Mark Smith, Lexington, KY	Kentucky River	04/21/01
PERCH				
Logperch	0.08 lbs.	Marietta Strange, Louisville, KY	Lake Barkley	11/04/13
Sauger	7 lbs. 7 oz.	Rastie Andrew, Jamestown, KY	Cumberland River	04/28/83
Saugeye	6 lbs. 9 oz.	Chuck Kouns, South Shore, KY	Ohio River	02/19/98
Walleye	21 lbs. 8 oz.	Abe Black, Shaker Heights, OH	Lake Cumberland	10/01/58
Yellow Perch	1 lb. 7 oz.	Shay Mitchell, Almo, KY	Kentucky Lake	03/01/10
PIKE				
Chain Pickerel	5 lbs. 6 oz.	Tommy Thompson, Bardwell, KY	Forked Lake, Carlisle Co.	07/08/83
Grass Pickerel	10 oz.	Gerald Gallagher, Louisville, KY	Wilson Creek, Bullitt Co.	07/17/89
Muskellunge	47 lbs.	Sarah Terry, Mt. Sterling, KY	Cave Run Lake	11/02/08
Northern Pike	10.53 lbs.	Derek Cowden, Corbin, KY	Laurel River Lake	10/29/06
Tiger Muskie (Muskellunge Hybrid)	19 lbs. 9 oz.	Wayne Joslin, Winchester, KY	Private lake, Clark Co.	04/25/07
SUNFISH				
Bluegill	4 lbs. 3 oz.	Phil Conyers, Madisonville, KY	Strip Mine Lake, Hopkins Co.	08/05/80
Crappie (White or Black)	4 lbs. 14 oz.	Penny Hopper, Crofton, KY	Watershed Lake, Christian Co.	05/08/05
Green Sunfish	1 lb. 9.44 oz.	David Gibson, Hawesville, KY	Farm pond, Hancock Co.	05/20/13
Longear Sunfish	13 oz.	Anthony Lynch, Salyersville, KY	Strip Mine Pond, Magoffin Co.	06/23/94
Redbreast Sunfish	14 oz.	Tim King, Stearns, KY	Marsh Creek, McCreary Co.	09/01/97
Redear Sunfish	3 lbs. 1 oz.	Betty Truax, Finchville, KY	Farm pond, Shelby Co.	05/24/82
Rock Bass	1 lb. 10 oz.	H.S. White, Cadiz, KY	Casey Creek, Trigg Co.	05/26/75
Warmouth	1 lb. 6.2 oz.	John Hoover, Louisville, KY	Private pond, Jefferson Co.	07/21/03
TROUT				
Brook Trout	3.65 lbs.	Wyatt Hoefer, Louisville, KY	Cumberland River	03/15/15
Brown Trout	21 lbs.	Thomas Malone, Crofton, KY	Cumberland River	04/30/00
Lake Trout	5 lbs. 5 oz.	John McDonogh, Jeffersontown, KY	Cumberland River	04/04/83
Rainbow Trout	14 lbs. 6 oz.	Jim Mattingly, Somerset, KY	Cumberland River	09/10/72

Note: Line class records are not maintained by the KDFWR.
* All tackle world record

Bowfishing records

The United Bowhunters of Kentucky maintains a state record program for fish harvested by bow and arrow. Visit their website at *www.kystatebowfishingrecords.com* for details, guidelines and current state records.

BOATING

BOATING REGULATIONS

INTRODUCTION

This publication provides basic information for most boaters and answers the most commonly asked questions. However, it is not all inclusive. For further information, please contact the Division of Law Enforcement, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601 or call 1-800-858-1549.

For emergencies, officers may be contacted by dialing 1-800-252-5378, or local law enforcement agency or through the nearest Kentucky State Police post. One may use marine channel 16 to contact a local marina.

BOAT REGISTRATION FEES	
Class A Vessels (less than 16′ in length)	$21.00
Class 1 Vessels (16′ to less than 26′ in length)	$40.00
Class 2 Vessels (26′ to less than 40′ in length)	$50.00
Class 3 Vessels (over 40′ in length)	$65.00
Inboard boats (regardless of size)	$43.00
Boats propelled by an electric (trolling) **motor only**	$10.00

The above costs do not include property taxes, clerks fees, titling fees or any other applicable charges. (301 KAR 6:005)

REGISTRATION

(301 KAR 6:001, 6:010)

All mechanically powered vessels used primarily in this state must have a Kentucky registration. Boats are registered at the county clerk's office. Persons may register in the county of their residence or the county of principal use. Boat registrations expire April 30 each year.

Boats registered in other states may be used for up to 60 consecutive days in Kentucky without registering here.

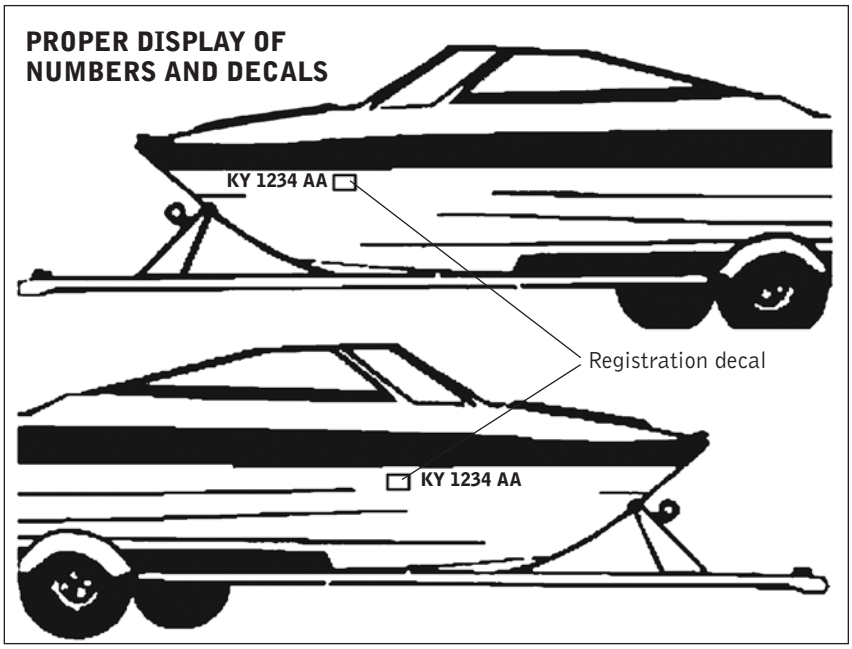
All boats operated in Kentucky must have the registration certificate on board. Boats that are rented from a marina or boat livery must have a lease agreement on board.

DISPLAY OF NUMBER AND DECAL

Once boats are assigned a registration number and decals, they must be displayed correctly. The number assigned, and no other, shall be displayed on the bow, or forward half, of each side of the vessel, read from left to right, and in a position to be distinctly visible. The letters and numbers must be of a plain block design, at least three (3) inches in height, and of a color that will provide maximum contrast to the background (light numbers on a dark hull or vice versa).

There must be a letter size space between letter and number groups:

Correct: KY 1234 AA
Incorrect: KY1234AA



Registration decals are to be placed within six inches behind (aft) and in line with the registration number. Upon renewal every year, old registration decals are to be removed and the current ones applied.

TRANSFER, DESTRUCTION OR ABANDONMENT

When ownership of a currently registered boat changes, it is the responsibility of the purchaser to take the endorsed title to the county clerk and have the boat transferred into the name of the new owner. This procedure must be done upon completion of the transaction.

Whenever a vessel is transferred, the seller shall, within 15 days, give the county clerk notice of the transfer of his interest in the vessel.

Whenever a vessel is destroyed or abandoned, the owner shall, within 15 days, give notice to the county clerk to terminate the registration. The owner shall remove the numbers and decals from the vessel.

BOAT, MOTOR and LAKE USAGE

Bordering waters

Kentucky boaters on the Ohio River may also be subject to the laws of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and the U.S. Coast Guard.

(301 KAR 1:012, 1:015)

Maximum horsepower limits and other boat motor and lake usage regulations apply on many small public fishing lakes. (For boat size limits see box on this page.)

MOTOR SIZE RESTRICTIONS:

Operation of electric or internal combustion motors prohibited: Lake Chumley, Dennie Gooch Lake and Kingdom Come Lake.

Operation of internal combustion motors prohibited: Bert T. Combs Lake, Briggs Lake, Carpenter and Kingfisher lakes, Carter Caves State Park Lake (a.k.a. Smoky Valley Lake), Lebanon City Lake (a.k.a. Fagan Branch Lake), Fishpond Lake, all Kentucky River WMA Boone Tract lakes, Lincoln Homestead State Park Lake, McNeely Lake, Marion County Lake, Martin County Lake, Metcalfe County Lake, Mauzy Lake, Mill Creek Lake, Lake Reba, Spurlington Lake, Washburn Lake, Pikeville City Lake.

Motors larger than 10 HP must operate at idle speed at all times on Beaver Lake, Boltz Lake, Bullock Pen Lake, Corinth Lake, Cranks Creek (Herb Smith) Lake, Elmer Davis Lake, Kincaid Lake, Martins Fork Lake and Shanty Hollow Lake.

Idle Speed Only: Ballard WMA lakes, Boatwright WMA lakes, Beulah Lake, Carnico Lake, Greenbo Lake, Pan Bowl Lake, Wilgreen Lake and all Peabody WMA lakes including Goose, Island and South lakes.

Lake Malone and Lake Beshear: No horsepower restrictions on boat motors.

Note

Legal-size boats exceeding the maximum horsepower restriction for a particular lake may operate their boat with an electric trolling motor only.

WATER-SKIING

While this section is titled water-skiing, it applies to persons being towed on any device such as knee boards, inner tubes, etc. Water-skiing is only allowed between sunrise and sunset. Additionally, it is illegal to manipulate skis, surfboards, etc. while intoxicated or under the influence of any other substance that impairs one's operating ability.

Both the operator and skier should be alert to the areas of a lake or river marked as "no ski." Persons shall not ski within 100 feet of a commercial boat dock, a moorage harbor or a swimming area or within 2,000 feet of a lock or dam.

Skiers who ski too close to other boats, docks and obstructions are showing poor judgement. Many of the complaints officers receive while patrolling the water are those about skiers skiing too close.

Persons being towed on any device must wear a Type I, II or III PFD. Boats (including personal watercraft) towing skiers must have, in addition to the operator of the boat, an observer 12 years of age or older or a wide angle rearview mirror mounted so that the operator can check on the skier but still give full attention to traffic ahead. There must be adequate seating for all riders.

Boats towing kites and similar airborne devices must:

- Have, in addition to the operator, an observer 12 years or older (mirror will not suffice),
- Stay 500 feet from commercial docks

AGE RESTRICTIONS

A person must be 12 years or older to operate a motorboat (including personal watercraft) 10 horsepower or over on Kentucky public waters. A person 12-17 years old shall possess a Kentucky Safe Boating Certificate Card or a certificate showing successful completion of a NASBLA approved boater education course. For information about Kentucky's Boater Education program, call 1-800-858-1549 or on the internet, log on to *fw.ky.gov*.
Persons under 12 years of age must wear a personal floatation device (lifejacket) while in the open portion of a boat that is under way.

ON ALL KENTUCKY FISH & WILDLIFE-OWNED/ MANAGED LAKES:

- Boaters must use idle speed (slowest speed possible to maintain maneuverability of a boat) when passing another boat with an occupant actively engaged in fishing.
- The centerline of boats on the water cannot exceed 22 feet as measured on deck or bow to stern on all lakes owned or managed by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.
- On Cedar Creek Lake, Lake Beshear and Lake Malone only, pontoon boats may have decking and pontoons up to 30 feet; on Guist Creek Lake pontoon max length is 24 feet. There is no size restriction on canoes.
- Houseboats are not permitted.
- Personal watercrafts are prohibited on Cedar Creek Lake.
- Swimming is permitted only in designated areas when a qualified lifeguard is on duty.
- Skin or scuba diving is not permitted.
- Boat motors without underwater exhaust are not permitted.

Water-skiing permitted as designated by signs on Guist Creek Lake and Lake Beshear from 10:00 a.m. to sunset beginning the third Thursday in May (May 17, 2018) through September 30. Similarly, water-skiing is permitted on Lake Malone beginning the third Thursday in May (May 17, 2018) through October 31. Water-skiing and tubing are prohibited on Cedar Creek Lake.

and ramps,
- Limit the tow rope to 150 feet or less,
- Have no more than two persons being towed.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

A "personal watercraft" (PWC) means a vessel which uses an internal combustion engine to power a jet pump for its primary source of propulsion and is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing or kneeling on the vessel rather than by a person sitting or standing inside the vessel. In addition to being governed by the same laws that apply to all boats, the following laws apply to personal watercraft:
- Personal watercraft can only be operated between sunrise and sunset.
- Personal watercraft without self-circling capability must have a lanyard-type engine kill switch attached to the operator when the craft is underway.
- Operators and passengers must wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (PFD.)

Because of their small size and low profile, operators of PWCs should exercise defensive driving. These craft are highly responsive and capable of quick turns. In fact, this is part of the fun of their operation. However, this kind of operation is reckless if done in congested areas of boat traffic.

SKIN AND SCUBA DIVING

(301 KAR 1:410, 6:030)

Skin or SCUBA diving is prohibited in all lakes owned or managed by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, except during emergencies, on Greenbo Lake and during salvage operations when the diver has written permission from the regional director or local wildlife and boating law enforcement officer assigned to the specific body of water in which the diving is to take place.

Persons diving or submerging with the aid of a mechanical breathing apparatus in an area where boats might be are required by law to display the diver's flag.

This flag should be put on a buoy, boat or other floating platform so boaters will readily see it. Approaching boats must stay outside of a 100-foot radius of the flag. Divers must surface within a 50-foot radius unless there is an emergency.

Divers shall not dive in established traffic lanes nor interfere with anyone fishing unless emergency operations are in progress.

DIVERS DOWN FLAGS
Boaters should exercise caution

Alpha Flag (left)**:** Blue with a silver stripe, displayed on vessel with restricted mobility because of diving operation. **Diver's Flag** (right)**:** Red flag at least 12" x 12" with diagonal stripe at least three inches wide, displayed where diver is submerged.

SWIMMING

Swimming in any lake owned or managed by the KDFWR is prohibited except in areas specifically set aside for swimming at which a qualified lifeguard is on duty. Kentucky law specifically prohibits swimming at any boat launching ramp. Swim in marked and supervised areas. If you are a nonswimmer or a poor swimmer, wear a PFD. Remember, PFDs are not just for boaters.

Refrain from drinking alcoholic beverages when swimming. Alcohol greatly reduces a person's reflexes and strength when in the water. For persons who have had alcoholic beverages a PFD is the difference between life and death.

Persons who wish to swim a long distance should swim parallel to the shore instead of across a river or lake. Boaters don't normally expect to see swimmers in the middle of a lake or river and may run over them.

INFLATABLES

Air mattresses, inner tubes and other similar devices are generally used as recreational items by persons swimming or sunbathing. Use of these items should be restricted to designated or generally recognized swimming areas and not be used in areas of boat traffic. Nonswimmers or poor swimmers should not depend on these devices to save their life. These items can be punctured and lose their buoyancy – wear a PFD!

LITTERING

(KRS 433.757)

The operator of any motorboat or vessel is responsible for any litter thrown into the water. Litter is not only unsightly, but can be dangerous to humans and animals. For example, fishing line discarded into the water can be hazardous to wildlife and to a boat's lower unit. Animals can be ensnared in the line and die. Fishing line caught on a prop shaft can cause seal leaks and lower unit failure. Trot lines and limb lines can snare animals and other anglers in boats.

BOAT OPERATION

RECKLESS OPERATION

The operator of a watercraft is responsible for damage caused by negligent operation. The following actions are considered reckless operation and are therefore against the law:
- weaving through traffic;
- following watercraft too closely that is towing an individual on waterskis, a surfboard or any water sport device;
- jumping the wake of another craft in a way that endangers human life, physical safety or property;
- cutting between a boat and the individual(s) being towed by the boat;
- crossing the path of another boat when visibility is obstructed;
- steering toward an object or individual in the water and turning sharply at close range.

Persons shall not operate a motorboat or personal watercraft within 50 feet of a commercial vessel and its tow that is in operation on a waterway, except if the operator of the commercial vessel has given consent.

When operating in a busy area, re-

duce speed and allow plenty of room for avoidance maneuvers. Even in areas that are not marked as idle speed, excessive wake can still be dangerous. Operators of larger craft should be aware of the wake their vessels are throwing.

IDLE SPEED

Kentucky law defines idle speed as the "slowest speed possible to maintain maneuverability" of a boat. Generally speaking for a properly adjusted boat, this is the speed when a boat is put into gear without advancing the throttle. Wakes can capsize small boats or cause damage to boats moored at marinas and docks. It is extremely important that boat operators be aware of their speed and the resulting wake. Operators are liable for any injuries or damage caused by their boat's wake.

Boaters may see buoys or signs that say "No Wake." This means that boats must be at idle speed.

LOCKS AND DAMS

Boaters in Kentucky may encounter lock and dam systems. Generally, these will be on the Green, Ohio and Kentucky Rivers (for the first four locks upstream to Frankfort, KY), but a few impoundments have a lock and dam. Locks are a relatively simple method of raising or lowering boats from one water level to another. If lockage is desired, boaters should signal the lock operator by using the pull chain on each end of the lock or call on marine channel 13. If the lock is not immediately available, boaters should position their vessels a safe distance from the approach channel to avoid personal injury or damage to their boat from wakes caused by commercial tows entering or leaving the locks. Never moor a vessel in the lock approach channels.

Dams associated with the locks can be very dangerous. Below all locks and dams, boat occupants must wear a personal floatation device (lifejacket) upstream of danger signs and open-diamond buoys or within 150 feet of the downstream lock and dam wall. **Anglers should never fish from or stand on lock and dam structures.**

Boaters should be alert for these structures. Dams are either conventional or "low head" type. Conventional dams are easily recognizable with their spillways and power installations.

LOW HEAD DAMS ARE DANGEROUS

Low head dams are usually marked with "keep out" buoys or "danger" signs above and below. Low head dams pose an even greater danger due to the fact that they are not as recognizable, especially when water is flowing over them. It is this flow of water over the dam that creates a "boil" on the lower side. Boaters risk almost certain death if caught in this turbulence.

RESTRICTED ZONES

(KAR 6:030)

Kentucky law prohibits boats from operating within restricted areas as posted above or below navigation, power generating or flood control dams.

No fish is worth risking your life. Be aware of trespassing and danger zones. Wear a PFD when entering any area above or below a dam.

OPERATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

(KRS 235.240)

It is against the law to operate a boat or vessel including personal watercraft, manipulate water skis, surfboard or other similar device while intoxicated or under the influence of any other substance that impairs one's driving ability. Any person who operates a vessel on Kentucky waters is considered to have given consent to a test or tests to determine his alcohol concentration or the presence of other drugs. The tests shall be administered at the direction of a law enforcement officer who has probable cause to believe that the operator is intoxicated. An operator refusing the test shall be in violation of the law and subject to the same penalties.

Anyone who operates a boat, PWC,

SMALL CRAFT PRECAUTIONS

Statistics show that approximately half the boat-related fatalities involve boats that are less than 16′ in length. These boats are usually unstable and can tip over, throwing the occupants overboard. Also, these boats can be easily swamped, especially if used on a large body of water where the wind can cause high waves. When using such craft, be aware of the hazards. Wearing a personal floatation device (PFD) is strongly recommended.

BLOOD ALCOHOL CONTENT CHART

Body Weight (in pounds)	Number of Drinks in a Two Hour Period 12 oz. beer = 5 oz. wine = 1 oz. 80 proof liquor								
100	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
120	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
140	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
160	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
180	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
200	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
220	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
240	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

BAC to .05% - Be careful. Loss of judgement and coordination.

BAC .05% to .07% - Abilities impaired. Chance of accident increased.

BAC .08% and over - Do not operate a boat. High risk of accident, subject to arrest.

skis, surfboard or similar device while intoxicated with a blood alcohol level of 0.08 or higher or while under the influence of any substance that impairs the operator's driving ability may be subject to fines and possible jail time if convicted.

DRINKING IN PUBLIC AND PUBLIC INTOXICATION

(KRS 222.202)

Kentucky law specifically prohibits the drinking of alcoholic beverages in public places (this excludes establishments licensed to sell such beverages) and the waterways of this state are considered public places.

Further, in a public place, persons who are manifestly under the influence of alcoholic beverages to the extent that they may unreasonably annoy or endanger themselves or others shall be subject to arrest.

PROHIBITED RIDING

Approximately half of boat related fatalities result from falls overboard. When operating a motorboat above idle speed the operator or passengers shall not ride on an enclosed bow, outside protective railing of a pontoon or houseboat, on a seat which extends six inches above the plane of the gunwales, nor shall they ride on the sides, back, engine cover, back of seat, or any other obviously dangerous position which could lead to falling overboard.

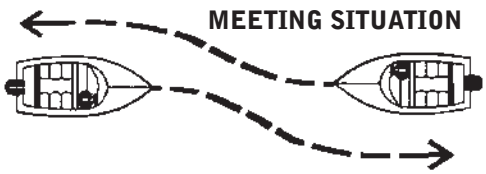
RULES OF THE ROAD

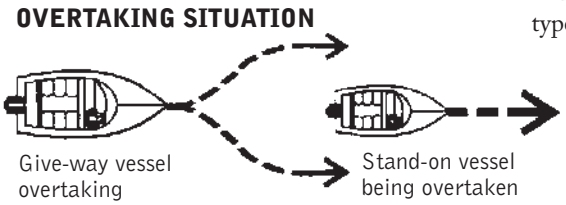
On the water there are no painted lines to mark where boats must go. In order to provide an orderly flow of traffic, there are "rules of the road" that boaters should learn and practice.

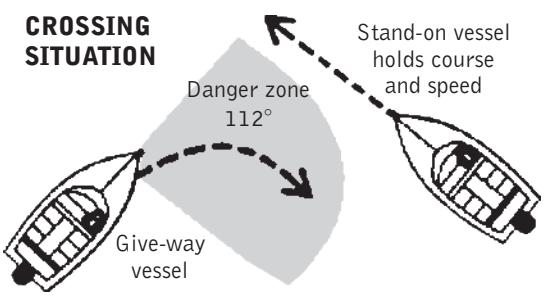
Boaters on the water encounter three situations: meeting, crossing and overtaking. The following diagrams should give a clear explanation of who has the right of way (stand-on vessel) and who must give way (give-way vessel). However, in an emergency, all vessels must give way to avoid a collision. At night, a boat's navigation lights give an indication of right of way (see page 36).

The above rules cover most traffic situations, but a few other situations exist. Sailboats under sail have the right of way except when they are the overtaking vessel. Rowboats and paddle powered boats have the right of way over motorboats. All recreational craft should yield the right of way to large commercial craft (towboats, barges). Such vessels have large blind spots and will be unable to see smaller crafts in front of them.

On small or narrow bodies of water, all traffic should stay to the right of mid-channel and not "cut corners".







BUOYS

Buoys are the most common types of navigational aid, and they serve the same purpose as traffic signs on the highway. Failure to obey buoys can result in enforcement action, or worse, a loss of property or lives. **When boating in unfamiliar waters, slow down and look for any regulatory or channel-marking buoys. Remember that it is possible for these buoys to drift out of position. Kentucky law prohibits from tying up to any buoy except designated mooring buoys.**

UNIFORM STATE WATERWAY MARKING SYSTEM

Boats Keep Out!
Nature of danger may be placed outside crossed diamond, e.g., waterfalls, swim areas or rapids.

Danger!
Nature of danger may be indicated inside the diamond shape, e.g., rocks, reefs, dams, construction or snags.

Caution!
Controlled Areas as indicated in circle, e.g., speed limit, no fishing, no anchoring, ski-only, slow-no wake, no ski or no prop boats.

Information
Tells directions, distances, places such as food, repair, supplies and other non-regulatory messages.

Obstruction Marker
Do not pass between shore and buoy.

Mooring Buoy
White with reflective blue band. May have white light or reflector.

Channel Marker
Keep buoy on right facing upstream.

Channel Marker
Keep buoy on left facing upstream. Marker may be green or black.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

(301 KAR 6:020 Sect. 4); KRS 235.203

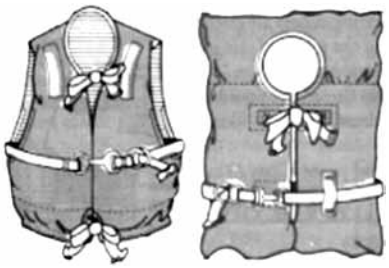
For each person onboard a vessel, federal as well as state law requires a Type I, II, or III personal flotation device (PFD) on all boats. Boats 16 feet and over, except canoes and kayaks, must also carry one Type IV throwable PFD. Operators and passengers of personal watercraft must wear a PFD. Persons under 12 years of age must wear a PFD while in the open part of a boat that is under way.

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife strongly recommends wearing PFDs while boating, especially by children and nonswimmers. In order for PFDs to be legal, the following requirements must be met:

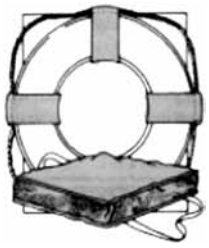
- **Coast Guard approved:** A label with an approval number will be on the PFD. Check the label on inflatable types of PFDs. Some older models meet Coast Guard approval only when worn.
- **Serviceability:** All straps, buckles, zippers, stitching, must be intact and the fabric should not be rotted. Some PFDs contain airtight bags filled with a fibrous material. Squeeze the bags. If air escapes, destroy the PFD and replace it with a new one.
- **Size:** PFDs must fit properly. Read the label to determine size and weight restrictions.
- **Accessibility:** PFDs must be readily available for immediate use by all occupants of a vessel. It is advisable for each person to try on their PFD before departing so that they are familiar with the fastening devices and to assure it is adjusted to the person. PFDs shouldn't be stored in the plastic bags in which they were sold. This limits access and can promote rotting.

TYPES OF PFDs



TYPE I (right) **and TYPE II** (far right) These devices are designed, when worn properly, to turn a person who is unconscious and face down in the water to a vertical or slightly backward face up position.

TYPE III
These are special purpose devices that include ski vests, fishing vests and float coats. They are not designed to turn a person's face out of the water, but they do have the same buoyancy as the type I and II PFDs and are more comfortable to wear.



TYPE IV
These PFDs are designed to be thrown to persons in the water who can hold on to them until help arrives. They are not designed to be worn, and could cause drowning if worn on the back.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Kentucky law requires that all boats equipped with a petroleum product (gasoline, kerosene, propane, etc.) consuming device (engines, lanterns, stoves, etc.) shall have a hand portable fire extinguisher in serviceable condition and located for immediate use. The best fire protection is well maintained equipment and proper safety habits.

There are fuels other than gasoline that cause fires. Many houseboats use bottled gas (propane) for stoves and other appliances. Also, many fishermen will use a lantern while fishing at night; if tipped over it can cause a fire.

MARINE FIRE EXTINGUISHER CLASSIFICATION

Coast Guard Classes	UL Listing	Foam (gals.)	CO2 (lbs.)	Dry Chemical (lbs.)
B-I	5B	1.25	4	2
B-II	6B*	2.5	15	10
—	10B	none	10	2.5
—	20B	2.5	50	4.5 - 6

* UL rating 6B is no longer used.

MINIMUM NUMBER OF B-1 FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Vessel/ size	No Fixed Fire Extinguisher System	Fixed Fire Extinguisher System Installed
Class A	1	0
Class 1	1	0
Class 2	2	1
Class 3	3	2

Above: foam, CO2 and dry chemical fire extinguishers

BACKFIRE FLAME ARRESTERS

Internal combustion engines may backfire. To safeguard against fire, all motorboats with enclosed engines and engines originally equipped with a flame arrester, (except outboards and diesels) must have an approved

carburetor backfire flame arrester system on each carburetor.

VENTILATION

Most fires on a boat are due to ignition of fuel vapors. Gasoline is heavier than air. It can collect in the bilge or engine compartment and any spark can ignite it. Therefore, Kentucky law requires boats to have adequate ventilation of areas where flammable vapors can accumulate.

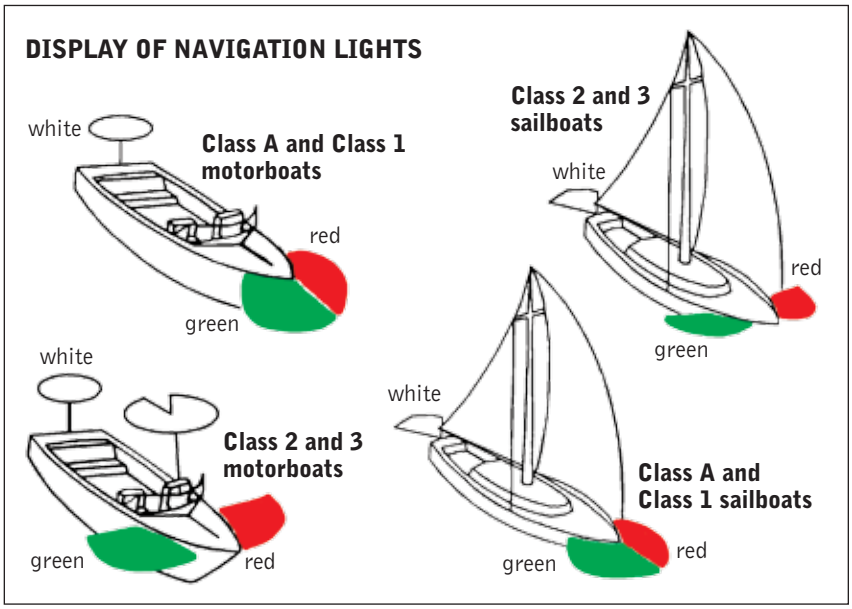
Most boats are equipped with adequate ventilation systems when they come from the factory. Usually, this is a combination of active and passive systems. Active systems use electrical blowers to exhaust flammable vapors from the bilge and other areas. Passive systems are ducts and cowls that ventilate areas when the boat is moving. Almost all inboards will have an electrical blower installed in the engine compartment. Operators should run the blower for several minutes before starting the engine. If the blower is inoperable it should be repaired or replaced immediately. Many boat fires take place after refueling, so care should be taken to avoid spilling fuel in the vessel.

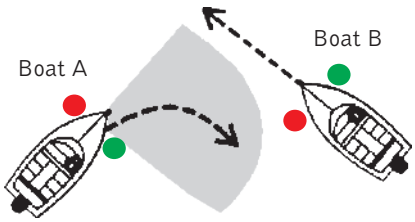
NAVIGATION LIGHTS

All vessels when underway between sunset and sunrise must display proper navigation lights. Navigation lights on boats are restricted to the colors of red, green and white.

From sunset to sunrise in an area where other boats navigate, all vessels at anchor shall display a steady white light visible 360 degrees at all times. Manually propelled vessels shall carry a white light to display in sufficient time to avoid a collision.

The purpose of the red and green navigation lights at night is to show if your boat is in a meeting, crossing or overtaking situation. The red and green lights must be displayed from sunset to sunrise whenever a boat is underway. They will give some indication of the size and speed of vessels. The red and green bow lights are especially helpful in determining right of way in crossing situations. In the diagram below, boat B sees the green bow light of boat A, and has the right of way to continue on course. Boat A sees the red bow light of boat B and must stop or pass astern of boat B. In special circumstances, such as towing, refer to 33 CFR 83 (Inland Navigation Rules).





SIGNALING DEVICES

Kentucky law states that all boats 16 feet in length or longer must have a hand-, mouth- or power-operated signaling device capable of producing a blast for two seconds or more and audible for one-half mile for class 1 vessels, one mile for class two vessels and one and one-half miles for class three vessels. This does not exempt vessels from any other signaling device as may be required by federal law when operating on navigable waters of this state.

Navigation law also requires the following maneuvering and warning signals:

- One long blast: Warning signal (coming out of slip)
- One short blast: Pass on my port side (left)
- Two short blasts: Pass on my starboard (right)
- Three short blasts: Engines in reverse
- Five or more blasts: Danger signal

MUFFLING DEVICES

Kentucky law requires all boats to be equipped with effective exhaust muffling devices. Usually, boats and motors that come direct from the manufacturer are adequately muffled. However, there may be instances of high performance boats that have been modified by the owners that are not in compliance with the law. Additionally, there may be federal and/or local regulations restricting boats with an over-the-transom exhaust system.

MARINE SANITATION DEVICES

(KRS 235:420)

Motorboats with marine toilets are not allowed on public waters unless the toilet is equipped with a Type I, II or III marine sanitation device (MSD.) Type I and II MSDs chemically treat sewage. Type III MSDs are holding tanks for raw sewage.

Raw sewage shall not be discharged in any public waters. Treated sewage may be discharged from a marine toilet into legal "discharge" waters. Those waters are Barkley and Kentucky lakes, Lake Cumberland and any of the major river systems. Type I and II MSDs must be sealed or locked while the vessel is on "no discharge" waters.

Scan this QR code to download the Kentucky Boat Safe app for your mobile device!

ACCIDENTS

(301 KAR 6:030, KRS 235.250)

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

If any of the following conditions occur as the result of a boating accident, collision, etc., a Boating Accident Report must be made:

- death or disappearance of a person;
- injury to a person which requires medical attention or incapacitates that person for 24 hours or more;
- loss or damage to property (including the vessel) in an amount of $500 or more.

The operator of a vessel is required to complete the report. If the operator is not capable of filing the report and is not the owner of the vessel, then the owner shall be required to fill out a boating accident report.

Note 1: Even if a Law Enforcement Officer fills out a boating accident report, this does not exempt the operator from filing a report.

Note 2: The reports filed by operators of vessels are confidential and are not available as public record (KRS 235.250). However, reports made by officers are available for review.

Accidents involving death or serious injury must be submitted to the Division of Law Enforcement within 48 hours. All others must be submitted within five days.

Boating accident report forms are available from wildlife and boating law enforcement officers or by writing to Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Division of Law Enforcement, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601, or by calling 1-800-858-1549.

RENDERING AID

An operator of a vessel involved in a boating accident shall render aid to other persons and vessels as long as it doesn't endanger his crew, passengers or vessel. Also, the operator of any vessel involved in an accident shall give his name, address, and identification of his vessel, in writing, to any person that is injured or to the owner of any property that is damaged.

FIRST AID

This section includes suggestions that may save a life. First, boats should be equipped with a first aid kit. This kit should be able to provide treatment for burns, insect bites, cuts and abrasions.

Second, boaters should take a first aid course so they know how to treat victims with sprains, broken bones and shock.

Third, boaters should know how to perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) in case they encounter victims of near drowning, heart attack or trauma from boating accidents. In many cases, emergency medical help is further away on the water than on land. Interested persons should contact their local chapter of the American Red Cross for information on first aid and CPR training.

HYPOTHERMIA

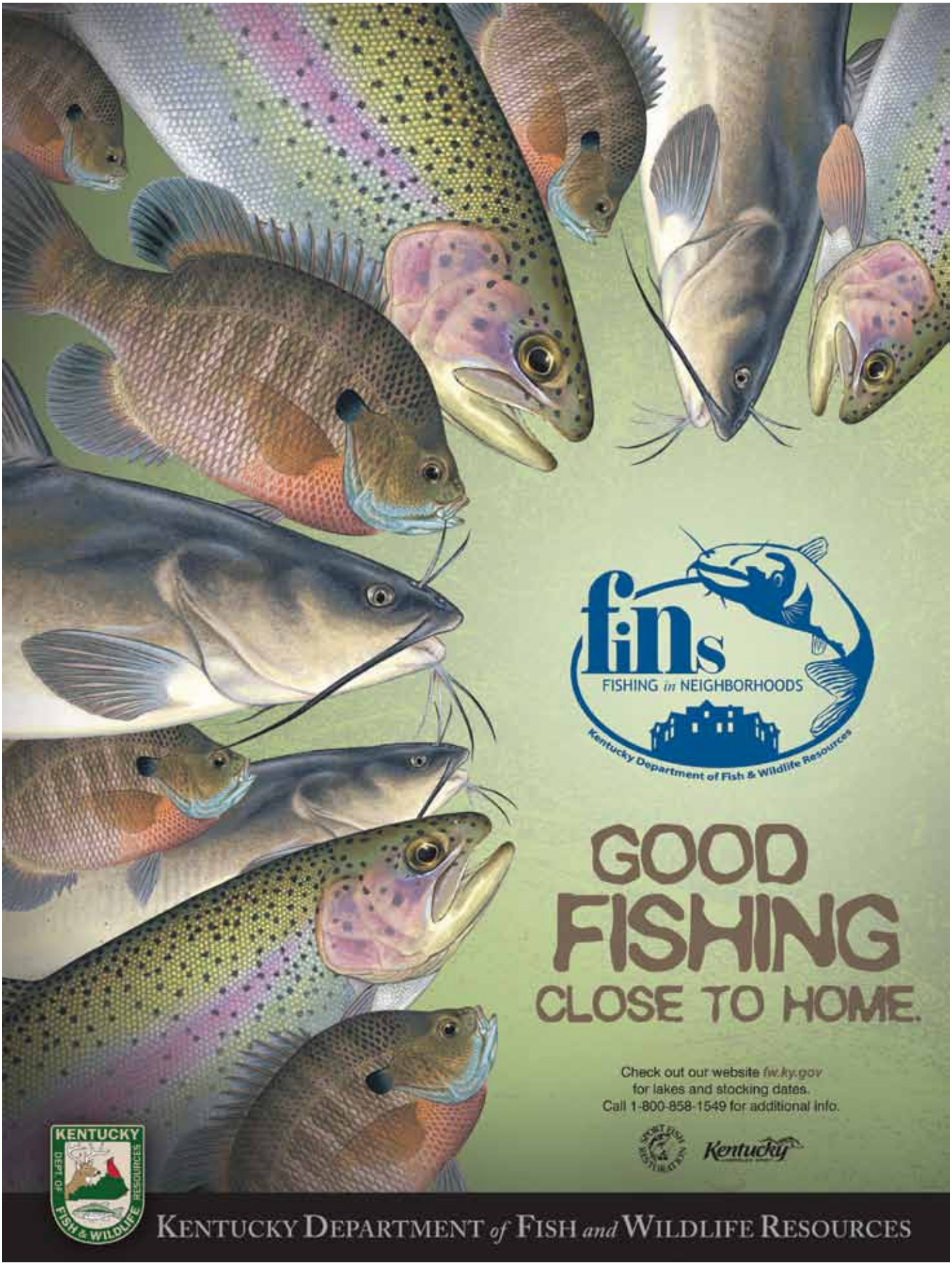
Four elements cause hypothermia – cold, moisture, wind and exhaustion. Symptoms of hypothermia are uncontrollable shivering, slurred speech, stumbling, blue skin, decreased heart and breathing rate, weak pulse and unconsciousness.

All hypothermia symptoms demand immediate attention. As soon as possible, a victim of hypothermia should be brought out of the weather. Wet clothing should be replaced with dry clothing. If the victim shows mild symptoms, get them near a fire or other heat source or put them in a warm sleeping bag. For victims with advanced symptoms of hypothermia, seek immediate medical attention. Never give alcohol to the victim.

The best cure for hypothermia is prevention. Monitor weather reports when you plan to be in the outdoors. Dress in layers and always have foul-weather gear handy.

FATIGUE

Boaters should be aware of the factors that induce fatigue while on the water. The wind, sun, engine noise and constant motion of the boat can greatly reduce a person's reaction time.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FISHING in NEIGHBORHOODS
Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources
GOOD FISHING CLOSE TO HOME.
Check out our website fw.ky.gov
for lakes and stocking dates.
Call 1-800-858-1549 for additional info.
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