

Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission Notice of Public Hearing

A public hearing will be conducted by the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission (the Commission) at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 26, 2025, at the Dole-Spencer Conference Room at the Fossil Creek Hotel & Suites, 1430 South Fossil Street in Russell, Kansas 67665, to consider the approval and adoption of a proposed administrative regulation of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. Other Commission business will follow and will include general discussions, which may include educational presentations, workshop sessions, and public comment opportunity following the public hearing. The meeting will continue until all business is complete. The public hearing will be conducted in person and via video conferencing system.

This 30-day notice period prior to the hearing constitutes a public comment period for the purpose of receiving written public comments on the proposed administrative regulation. All interested parties may submit written comments prior to the hearing to the Chair of the Commission, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 1020 South Kansas Avenue, Suite 200, Topeka, Kansas 66612, or to megan.deters@ks.gov, if submitted electronically. All interested parties will be given a reasonable opportunity at the hearing to express their views orally regarding the adoption of the proposed regulation. During the hearing, all written and oral comments submitted by interested parties will be considered by the Commission as a basis for approving, amending and approving, or rejecting the proposed regulation.

Copies of the complete text of the regulation and economic impact statement may be obtained by writing the Chair of the Commission at the address above, may be accessed electronically on the Department's website at www.ksoutdoors.com, or by calling (785) 296-6373.

Any individual with a disability may request an accommodation to participate in the public hearing and may request the proposed regulation and economic impact statement in an accessible format. Requests for accommodation to participate in the hearing should be made at least ten (10) business days in advance of the hearing by contacting Megan Deters at (785) 296-6373. Persons with a hearing impairment may call the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at (800) 432-0698 to request special accommodations.

Summaries of the proposed regulation and its economic impact follow. (Note: Statements indicating that "The Commission anticipates that the proposed amendment/new regulation will have minor to no economic impact" are intended to indicate that no economic impact on the Commission, other state agencies, persons subject to the proposed regulations, or the general public have been identified.)

K.A.R. 115-25-14:

The changes to the regulation adjust length and creel limits at specific water bodies for various sport fish species and shorten the length of the trout season due to increasing costs of acquiring trout from vendors.

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Economic Impact:

No quantifiable economic impact is anticipated. Changes to length and creel limits for sport fish have never affected the number of fishing licenses sold by the Department and have not noticeably impacted local businesses, individuals, or local governments.

Whitney Damron, Chair
Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission

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115-25-14. Fishing; creel limit, size limit, possession limit, and open season. (a) The open season for the taking of fish in Kansas shall be January 1 through December 31~~the first day of January through the last day of December~~, with the following exceptions:

- (1) The flowing portions and backwaters of the Missouri ~~River~~ and any oxbow lake through which the Kansas-Missouri boundary passes and other designated waters, for which the open snagging season for the taking of paddlefish shall be March 15 through May 15~~the 15th day of March through the 15th day of May~~;
- (2) the flowing portions of the Kansas ~~River~~ from its origin downstream to its confluence with the Missouri ~~River~~ and the flowing portions of the Arkansas ~~River~~ from its origin downstream to the Kansas-Oklahoma border and on federal reservoirs from 150 yards away from the dam to the upper end of the federal property, for which the open hand-fishing season for the taking of flathead catfish shall be from sunrise to sunset, June 15 through August 31~~the 15th day of June through the last day of August~~;
- (3) for floatline fishing, only on designated federal reservoirs; and
- (4) those areas closed by posted notice.

(b) Pursuant to K.A.R. 115-18-12, a trout permit shall be required for each individual who wants to fish on the following waters from the first day of December through the last day of March (type one waters) ~~during the specified time periods~~:

- (1) November 1 through April 15 (type one waters):
 - (A1) Dodge City Lake Charles;
 - (B2) Coffeyville LeClere Lake;
 - (C3) Eisenhower State Park Pond;
 - (D4) Fort Scott Gun Park Lake;

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(E5) Garnett Crystal Lake;

(F6) Glen Elder Reservoir Outlet;

(G7) Glen Elder State Park Pond;

(H8) Kanopolis Seep Stream;

(I9) Lake Henry, located in Clinton State Park;

(J10) Unit number 30, located in the Mined Land Wildlife Area;

(K11) Pratt Centennial Pond;

(L12) the following Sedgwick County Park waters:

(iA) Vic's Lake; and

(iiB) Slough Creek;

(M13) Scott State Park Pond;

(N14) Topeka Auburndale Park;

(O15) Walnut River Area, located in El Dorado State Park;

(P16) Webster Stilling Basin;

(Q17) Willow Lake, located in Tuttle Creek State Park;

(R18) King Lake-Emporia; and

(S19) OJ Watson Park.

(2) ~~November 1 through October 31: unit number 30, located in the Mined Land Wildlife Area.~~

(c) Pursuant to K.A.R. 115-18-12, a trout permit shall be required for each individual who wants to fish for and possess trout on the following waters from ~~November 1 through April 15 the first day of December through the last day of March~~ (type two waters):

(1) Atchison City Lake No. 1;

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- (2) Belleville City Lake (Rocky Pond);
- (3) Cameron Springs, located on Fort Riley;
- (4) Cedar Bluff Stilling Basin;
- (5) Cherryvale City Lake (Tanko);
- (6) Cimarron Grasslands Pits;
- (7) Great Bend Veterans Memorial Park Lake;
- (8) Great Bend Stone Lake;
- (9) Herington-Father Padilla Pond;
- (10) Holton-Elkhorn Lake;
- (11) Hutchinson Dillon Nature Center Pond;
- (12) ~~Kanopolis State Park Pond~~, the following Johnson County Park waters:
 - (A) Shawnee Mission Park Lake; and
 - (B) Kill Creek Park Lake;
- (13) Kanopolis State Park Pond;
- (13)(14) Lake Shawnee, located in Shawnee County;
- (14)(15) Meade State Fishing Lake;
- (15)(16) Moon Lake, located on Fort Riley;
- (16)(17) Salina Lakewood Lake;
- (17)(18) Sandsage Bison Range and Wildlife Area Sandpits;
- (18)(19) Scott State Fishing Lake;
- (19)(20) the following Sedgwick County Park waters:
 - (A) Moss Lake; and

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(B) Horseshoe Lake;

(20)(21) Solomon River between Webster Reservoir and Rooks County #2 Road;

(21)(22) Syracuse-Sam's Pond;

(22)(23) Colby-Villa High Lake; and

(23)(24) Sherman County ~~Smoky~~Smoky Gardens Lake.

(d) The following daily creel limits and size limits shall apply to each pond, lake, impoundment, and other water of the state that is open to public fishing access and to all perennial and intermittent watercourses of the state, unless special creel limits and size limits apply pursuant to subsection (f).

Species	Creel Limit	Size Limit
Black bass: largemouth, spotted, or smallmouth	5*	15"
Channel catfish (fewer than 30 rays in the anal fin)	10	--
Blue catfish (30 or more rays in the anal fin)	5 10	<u>only 1 at least 30"</u>
Trout	5*	--
Flathead catfish	5	--
Walleye, sauger, saugeye	5*	15"***
Pike family: northern pike, tiger, or muskellunge	2*	30"
Striped bass	5	--
Wiper: striped bass hybrid	5	--
Paddlefish	2**/2#	--
Crappie: white or black	50*	--

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All other species	No limit	--
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* The daily creel limit shall be composed of a single listed species or a combination of the species in the listed species group.

** The total snagging creel limit of paddlefish per calendar year shall be six paddlefish.

*** The 15" length limit on walleye, sauger, and saugeye shall not apply to streams, rivers, and tailwaters.

~~Any individual younger than 16 years of age may use an adult's paddlefish permit while accompanied by that adult with at least one unused carcass tag in possession. Each paddlefish snagged and kept by the individual younger than 16 years of age shall be included as part of the daily creel limit of the permit holder.~~

(e) The possession limit shall be three daily creel limits.

(f) Special size limits, creel limits, and bait restrictions for designated waters shall be those limits and restrictions specified in the department's "Kansas special size limits, creel limits, and bait restriction tables," dated ~~September 7, 2023~~June 21, 2024, which is hereby adopted by reference. All fish caught from these designated waters that are of a size or number that is illegal to possess shall be released unrestrained to the water immediately. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. ~~2023~~ 2024 Supp. 32-807; effective Jan. 1, 1990; amended Jan. 1, 1998; amended Jan. 1, 2000; amended Jan. 1, 2003; amended Jan. 1, 2004; amended Aug. 1, 2004; amended Feb. 1, 2005; amended Nov. 1, 2005; amended Jan. 1, 2007; amended Jan. 15, 2007; amended Jan. 1, 2008; amended Jan. 1, 2009; amended Jan. 1, 2010; amended March 16, 2010; amended Oct. 20, 2010; amended Jan. 1, 2012; amended Jan. 1, 2013; amended Jan. 1, 2014; amended Jan. 1, 2015; amended Jan. 1, 2016; amended Jan. 1, 2017; amended Jan. 1, 2018; amended Jan. 1, 2019; amended Jan. 1, 2020; amended Jan. 1, 2021; amended Jan. 1, 2022;

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amended Aug. 21, 2023; amended June 21, 2024; amended P-

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Kansas Administrative Regulations Economic Impact Statement (EIS)

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Agency

115-25-14
K.A.R. Number(s)

Kurtis Wiard
Agency Contact

785.296.1032
Contact Phone Number

Permanent Temporary

Is/Are the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) mandated by the federal government as a requirement for participating in or implementing a federally subsidized or assisted program?

Yes If yes, continue to fill out the remaining form to be included with the regulation packet submitted in the review process to the Department of Administration and the Attorney General. Budget approval is not required; however, the Division of the Budget will require submission of a copy of the EIS at the end of the review process.

No If no, do the total annual implementation and compliance costs for the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), calculated from the effective date of the rule(s) and regulation(s), exceed \$1.0 million or more in implementation and compliance costs that are reasonably expected to be incurred by or passed along to businesses, local governmental units and individuals as a result of the proposed rule and regulation over the initial five-year period following adoption of such rule(s) and regulation(s) (as calculated in Section III, F)?

Yes If "Yes," then the agency shall not adopt the rule(s) and regulation(s) until the rule(s) and regulation(s) has been ratified by the Legislature with a bill, unless the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) are: 1) mandated by the federal government as a requirement for participating in or implementing a federally subsidized or assisted program, as described in K.S.A. 77-416(b)(1)(B), and amendments thereto; 2) temporary rule(s) and regulation(s) adopted pursuant to K.S.A. 77-722, and amendments thereto; or 3) rules and regulations adopted pursuant to K.S.A. 2-3710 (Kansas Agricultural Remediation Board). Continue to fill out the remaining EIS form to be included with the regulation packet in the review process to the Department of Administration and the Attorney General. The submitted EIS will be independently analyzed by the Division of the Budget for approval.

No If no, continue to fill out the remaining form to be included with the regulation packet submitted in the review process to the Department of Administration and the Attorney General. The submitted EIS will be analyzed by the Division of the Budget for approval.

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Section I

Analysis, brief description, and cost and benefit quantification of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s). If the approach chosen by the Kansas agency to address the policy issue is different from that utilized by agencies of contiguous states or of the federal government, the economic impact statement shall include an explanation of why the Kansas agency's rule and regulation differs.

These regulation changes adjust length and creel limits at specific water bodies for sport fish species. Also, this change adjusts the length of the trout season in Kansas to a shorter season due to the increasing cost of purchasing the fish from vendors. The approach is similar to what other states and federal entities are using or have used to address these issues.

Section II

Explain whether the proposed rule and regulation is mandated by federal law as a requirement for participating in or implementing a federally subsidized or assisted program and whether the proposed rules and regulations exceed the requirements of applicable federal law.

The proposed regulation is not mandated by federal law as a requirement for participating in or implementing a federally assisted program.

Section III

Agency analysis specifically addressing the following:

A. The extent to which the rule(s) and regulation(s) will enhance or restrict business activities and growth;

There is no expectation that this regulation will either enhance or restrict business activities and growth. Some length and creel restrictions can affect fishing guide businesses if they are too restrictive. The extent is unknown but likely minimal. However, this proposal does not restrict the harvest of sport fish beyond acceptable levels. In fact, for Blue Catfish, we have proposed an increase to creel limits, allowing more fish to be harvested statewide.

B. The economic effect, including a detailed quantification of implementation and compliance costs, on the specific businesses, sectors, public utility ratepayers, individuals, and local governments that will be affected by the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) and on the state economy as a whole;

No quantifiable economic effect is anticipated. Changes to length and creel limits for sport fish have never affected the number of fishing licenses sold by the state and have not noticeably impacted local businesses, sectors, public utility ratepayers, individuals, or local governments.

C. Businesses that would be directly affected by the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s);

Local gas stations, motels, fishing guides, and state parks would be affected. The effect is anticipated to be neutral; not positive or negative.

D. Benefits of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) compared to the costs;

There is no economic benefit expected. The benefits to our fisheries include improved population structure of various fish species.

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E. Measures taken by the agency to minimize the cost and impact of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) on business and economic development within the State of Kansas, local government, and individuals;

No measures were necessary for the agency to minimize the cost and impact of the regulation change.

F. An estimate of the total annual implementation and compliance costs that are reasonably expected to be incurred by or passed along to businesses, local governments, or individuals. *Note: Do not account for any actual or estimated cost savings that may be realized. Implementation and compliance costs determined shall be those additional costs reasonably expected to be incurred and shall be separately identified for the affected businesses, local governmental units, and individuals.*

Costs to Affected Businesses – \$0

Costs to Local Governmental Units – \$0

Costs to Individuals – \$0

Total Annual Costs – \$0

(sum of above amounts)

Give a detailed statement of the data and methodology used in estimating the above cost estimate.

The agency monitors angler use and permit sales of regular intervals. We change some length and creel limits for various species at different water bodies every year. This data does not suggest that changing length and creel limits significantly affects participation, and therefore, do not likely have an economic impact.

Yes If the total implementation and compliance costs exceed \$1.0 million or more in implementation and compliance costs over the initial five-year period following adoption of such rule(s) and regulation(s) that are reasonably expected to be incurred by or passed along to businesses, local governmental units and individuals as a result of the proposed rule and regulation, did the agency hold a public hearing to find that the estimated costs have been accurately determined and are necessary for achieving legislative intent? If applicable, document when the public hearing was held, those in attendance, and any pertinent information from the hearing.

No

Not Applicable

If applicable, click [here](#) to enter public hearing information.

Provide an estimate to any changes in aggregate state revenues and expenditures for the implementation of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), for both the current fiscal year and next fiscal year.

This regulation change will not affect state revenues and expenditures for the implementation of the proposed rules and regulations.

Provide an estimate of any immediate or long-range economic impact of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) on any individual(s), small employers, and the general public. If no dollar estimate

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can be given for any individual(s), small employers, and the general public, give specific reasons why no estimate is possible.

This regulation change will have no economic impact on any individual, small employer, or the general public.

G. If the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) increases or decreases revenues of cities, counties or school districts, or imposes functions or responsibilities on cities, counties or school districts that will increase expenditures or fiscal liability, describe how the state agency consulted with the League of Kansas Municipalities, Kansas Association of Counties, and/or the Kansas Association of School Boards.

This regulation change will not increase or decrease the revenues of cities, counties, or school districts. Nor does it impose function or responsibilities on cities, counties, or school districts.

H. Describe how the agency consulted and solicited information from businesses, business associations, local governmental units, state agencies, or institutions and members of the public that may be affected by the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) or may provide relevant information.

This was discussed and included in at least five workshop sessions at Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks commission meetings.

Section IV

Does the Economic Impact Statement involve any environmental rule(s) and regulation(s)?

Yes If yes, complete the remainder of Section IV.
 No If no, skip the remainder of Section IV.

A. Describe the capital and annual costs of compliance with the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), and the individuals or entities who would bear the costs.

There are no capital or annual costs of compliance of this regulation expected.

B. Describe the initial and annual costs of implementing and enforcing the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), including the estimated amount of paperwork, and the state agencies, other governmental agencies, or other individuals who will bear the costs.

There are no initial or annual costs of implementing or enforcing this regulation expected.

C. Describe the costs that would likely accrue if the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) are not adopted, the individuals or entities who will bear the costs and who will be affected by the failure to adopt the rule(s) and regulation(s).

There are no costs expected that would likely accrue if the regulation change were not to be adopted.

D. Provide a detailed statement of the data and methodology used in estimating the costs used.

This is not applicable for this regulation change.

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