Wildlife and Parks Commission

Notice of Hearing of Proposed Administrative Regulations

A public hearing will be conducted by the Wildlife and Parks Commission at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, August 16, 2007 at Bass Pro Shops, 12051 Bass Pro Drive, Olathe, Kansas, to consider the approval and adoption of proposed administrative regulations of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

A workshop meeting on business of the Wildlife and Parks Commission will begin at 1:30 p.m., August 16 at the location listed above. The meeting will recess at 5:30 p.m. then resume at 7:00 p.m. at the same location for the regulatory hearing. There will be public comment periods at the beginning of the afternoon and evening meetings for any issues not on the agenda and additional comment periods will be available during the meeting on agenda items. Old and new business may also be discussed at this time. If necessary to complete the hearing or other business matters, the commission will reconvene at 9:00 a.m. August 17 at the location listed above.

Any individual with a disability may request accommodation in order to participate in the public hearing and may request the proposed regulations and economic impact statements in an accessible format. Requests for accommodation to participate in the hearing should be made at least five working days in advance of the hearing by contacting Sheila Kemmis, Commission secretary, at (620) 672-5911. Persons with a hearing impairment may call the Kansas Commission of Deaf and Hard Hearing at 1-800-432-0698 to request special accommodations.

This 60-day notice period prior to the hearing constitutes a public comment period for the purpose of receiving written public comments on proposed administrative regulations.

All interested parties may submit written comments prior to the hearing to the Chairman of the Commission, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 1020 S. Kansas Ave, Suite 200, Topeka, KS 66612 or to sheilak@wp.state.ks.us if electronically. All interested parties will be given a reasonable opportunity at the hearing to express their views orally in regard to the adoption of the proposed regulations. 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 regulations.

The regulations that will be heard during the regulatory hearing portion of the meeting are as follows:

K.A.R. 115-30-1. This permanent regulation establishes display of identification number and decal for vessels. The proposed amendment clarify positioning of the department issued decals on vessels.

Economic Impact Summary: The proposed amendments are not anticipated to have any appreciable economic impact on the department, other agencies or the public.

K.A.R. 115-30-5. This permanent regulation establishes rules for capacity plates and operation of vessels. The proposed amendment would provide a formula for calculation of person capacity for vessels that do not have a capacity plate.

Economic Impact Summary: The proposed amendments are not anticipated to have any appreciable economic impact on the department, other agencies or the public.

K.A.R. 115-30-7. This permanent regulation establishes steering and sailing requirements for the operation of vessels. The proposed amendments would clarify the duties of a vessel operator when operating a vessel in close proximity to other vessels and prohibit mooring to and interference with navigation buoys.

Economic Impact Summary: The proposed amendments are not anticipated to have any appreciable economic impact on the department, other agencies or the public.

K.A.R. 115-30-8. This permanent regulation establishes requirements for the reporting of boating accidents. The proposed amendments would allow the reporting of a vessel accident to any commissioned law enforcement officer as well as to the department and alter the reporting timeframe from five days to immediately after the accident.

Economic Impact Summary: The proposed amendments are not anticipated to have any appreciable economic impact on the department, other agencies or the public.

K.A.R. 115-30-10. This permanent regulation establishes definitions, requirements and restrictions. The proposed amendments would change the no wake distance from 100 feet to 200 feet in certain situations and alter the boater education requirements for personal watercraft operation to conform to current state law regarding boater education.

Economic Impact Summary: The proposed amendments are not anticipated to have any appreciable economic impact on the department, other agencies or the public.

K.A.R. 115-30-12. This new permanent regulation establishes vessel requirements for vessels with marine sanitation devices. The proposed regulation would require the use of a nonreleasing locking device on any sewage discharge valve in order to prevent the unlawful discharge of marine sewage into the waters of the state.

Economic Impact Summary: The proposed amendments are not anticipated to have any appreciable economic impact on the department, other agencies or the public.

K.A.R. 115-8-7. This permanent regulation establishes special requirements for boating on department lands and waters as well as federal reservoirs. The proposed amendments would conform this regulation to changes proposed in K.A.R. 115-30-10 regarding watercraft operation in certain situations and the use of no wake speeds.

Economic Impact Summary: The proposed amendments are not anticipated to have any appreciable economic impact on the department, other agencies or the public.

Copies of the complete text of the regulations and their respective economic impact statements may be obtained by writing the chairman of the Commission at the address above, electronically on the department's website at www.kdwp.state.ks.us, or by calling (785) 296-2281.