

FISHING IMPOUNDMENTS & STREAM HABITATS

Angler Access Program

WHAT IS THE F.I.S.H. PROGRAM?

The (Fishing Impoundments & Stream Habitats) F.I.S.H. program was patterned after the very successful Walk-in-Hunting Access (WIHA) program with a goal of increasing public fishing opportunities in Kansas. The F.I.S.H. program was first introduced to Kansas anglers and landowners in 1998. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks leases private waters from landowners for public fishing. Landowners participating in F.I.S.H. receive payments, which vary according to the number of water acres enrolled in impoundments or the length and quality of the streams. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks posts signs on the land, provides directories and/or maps for anglers, and patrols the leased areas.

ENROLLMENT QUALIFICATIONS

Almost anyone who owns or leases streams, ponds, and lakes can lease their waters to KDWP. Persons who are resident landowners, absentee landowners, tenant farmers, estate managers, trust managers, and others who manage privately owned land can enroll their property in the F.I.S.H. program. Waters will need to be available for public access from March 1 to October 31.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Once the water is enrolled in the F.I.S.H. program the landowner will receive annual payments based on the size of the enrolled water.

Annual Payment Rate

Impoundments

\$40.00/acre

Stream

\$500.00-\$1,000.00/mile

Waters will need to be available for public access from March 1 to October 31

The F.I.S.H. program's goal is to increase public fishing opportunities in Kansas in cooperation with private landowners.

BENEFITS

F.I.S.H. provides anglers with a place to fish while leaving the land in private ownership. By providing a place to fish, the tradition of fishing can be preserved, and rural-urban ties can be strengthened. And, of course, there is a financial incentive.

Many landowners own waters far from home or don't have time to worry about who's fishing on their property. It may be more convenient for them to enroll in the F.I.S.H. program. The department will publish an atlas outlining each body of water enrolled in the program and anglers are asked not to contact landowners.

Conservation officers periodically patrol F.I.S.H. areas. Violators will be ticketed or arrested for offenses such as vandalism, trespassing, littering, or failing to comply with fishing regulations.

Landowners have the option to withdraw from the program at any time. They will be paid a prorated portion of the agreed payment and provided with signs denoting that the water has been removed from the program.

LIABILITY

Liability is a valid concern. However, state law provides that private individuals who lease their land to the state for recreational purposes are immune from ordinary negligence.

RESTRICTIONS

Access is limited to foot traffic, except on roads designated by the landowner in the case of very large tracts of land.



WHO TO CONTACT

If you are interested in learning more about the F.I.S.H. program, complete the attached application and mail, along with aerial photo of the land, to the appropriate Wildlife and Parks office listed in this brochure; or contact your local fisheries biologist or conservation officer. Your interest in the program and contribution to improving angling opportunities in Kansas will be greatly appreciated.

REGIONAL OFFICES

REGION 1

1426 Hwy 183 Alt.
P.O. Box 338
Hays, KS 67601
(785) 628-8614

REGION 4

6232 E. 29th St. N.
Wichita, KS 67220
(316) 683-8069

REGION 2

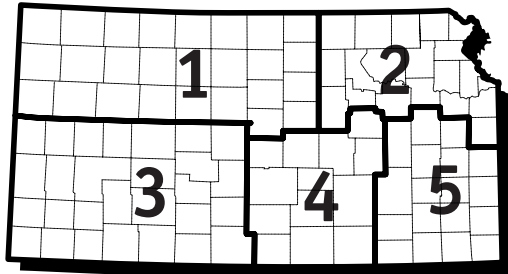
300 SW Wanamaker
Topeka, KS 66608
(785) 273-6740

REGION 5

1500 W. 7th,
P.O. Box 777
Chanute, KS 66720
(620) 431-0380

REGION 3

1001 MacArtor Rd.
Dodge City, KS 67801
(620) 227-8609



Federal Aid Project
funded by your purchase
of fishing equipment

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs described herein is available to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or handicap. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 1020 S Kansas Ave. Suite 200, Topeka, KS 66612-1327 01/05

F.I.S.H. APPLICATION

I am interested in enrolling my property in the F.I.S.H. program.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 31

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Day Phone _____

Evening Phone _____

It would be best to contact me during the:

Day _____ Evening _____

Do you wish to be contacted before we inspect your land? Yes__ No__

Complete legal description for each parcel of land.

Example:

Pond Acres 2 Stream Miles _____

Sec 26 T 18 R 16 Co. EL

Pond Acres _____ Stream Miles _____

Sec _____ T _____ R _____ Co. _____

Pond Acres _____ Stream Miles _____

Sec _____ T _____ R _____ Co. _____

Pond Acres _____ Stream Miles _____

Sec _____ T _____ R _____ Co. _____

Pond Acres _____ Stream Miles _____

Sec _____ T _____ R _____ Co. _____

I am the landowner _____

I am the tenant _____

Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks
512 SE 25th Ave.
Pratt, KS 67124

F.I.S.H.



A Component of the Kansas
Department of Wildlife & Parks'
Private Land Program



Public Fishing Access to
Private Waters
&
Financial Partnership
with Private Landowners