**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual Payment Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Impoundments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40.00/acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500.00-$1,000.00/mile</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

**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.
FISHING ACCESS & YOUR LAND

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

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

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 2
300 SW Wanamaker
Topeka, KS 66608
(785) 273-6740

REGION 3
1001 MacArthur Rd.
Dodge City, KS 67801
(620) 227-8609

REGION 4
6232 E. 29th St. N.
Wichita, KS 67220
(316) 683-8069

REGION 5
1500 W. 7th
P.O. Box 777
Chanute, KS 66720
(620) 431-0380

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.

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 ______ 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. _____
Pond Acres ______ Stream Miles ______
Sec _____ T _____ R _____ Co. _____

I am the landowner________________
I am the tenant______________________

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. Complain of discrimination should be sent to Office of the Federal Aid Project funded by your purchase of fishing equipment.

Fishing Association
Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks
P.O. Box 338
Topeka, KS 66601-0338
(785) 296-4426

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