

# 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

\$42.00/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.  
PO Box 338  
Hays, KS 67601  
(785) 628-8614

#### REGION 4

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

#### REGION 2

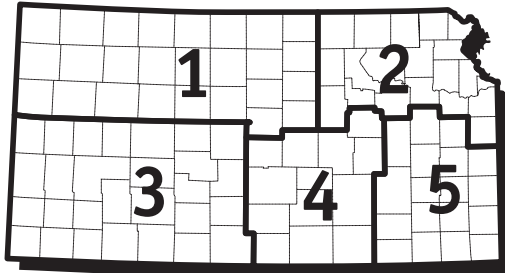
300 SW Wanamaker  
Topeka, KS 66606  
(785) 273-6740

#### REGION 5

1500 W 7th,  
PO 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, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation, and military or veteran status. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 1020 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612-1327. 10/09

## 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**