

Approved 2-10-87  
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES

The meeting was called to order by Senator Merrill Werts at  
Chairperson

8:00 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on February 3, 1987 in room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
Senator Yost - Absent

Committee staff present:  
Ramon Powers - Research  
Don Hayward - Revisor  
Nancy Jones - Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:  
Bill Hanzlick, Fish & Game Commission  
Dean Wilson, Sierra Club  
Ted Cunningham, Kansas Furharvesters

A motion was made by Senator Gordon, seconded by Senator Feleciano to approve minutes of the January 27, 28 & 29, 1987 meetings. Motion carried.

SB 59 - Concerning hunting, fishing and furharvesting licenses & fees

SB 60 - Authorizing fee-free fishing periods

Bill Hanzlick testifying on SB 59 gave a review of the fee structure under the comprehensive long range plan of the Commission. There would be no fee increase with passage of this legislation, but increases would be authorized by rule and regulation. Since licenses and fees are a major source of income for the agency, Mr. Hanzlick urged passage of SB 59 (Attachment A). Senator Feleciano requested of Mr. Hanzlick a copy of the agency's comprehensive long range plan to include the budget. Committee members discussed aspects of the budgeting process of the agency and effects of fee increases relative to conservation programs in place. Mr. Hanzlick expressed reservation about the Habitat & Wildlife stamp fee structure.

Dean Wilson expressed support for the fee increase in SB 59. A concern of Mr. Wilson is the depletion of reserve funds over a period of years without a structured fee increase. (Attachment B).

Testimony in support of SB 60 was given by Mr. Wilson and he feels authorization of fee-free fishing days is the best promotional tool available to Kansas. (Attachment C).

Ted Cunningham appearing as an opponent to SB 59 stated this legislation is a level of fees to be charged as soon as time expires under present regulations. Nearly all fees have increased to the limit and Fish & Game has not sought other funding sources. A deep concern was expressed regarding the high fee increases for furharvesters. Mr. Cunningham suggested SB 59 be held in committee as it is premature with reorganization a subject of speculation. (Attachment D).

Chairman Werts asked Committee members to note the copy of a page from the Audubon Activist regarding conservation easements. (Attachment E).

Testifying on SB 60, Bill Hanzlick stated free fishing days provided in this legislation will generate more interest in fishing, benefit sporting goods stores, and attract new anglers who will purchase licenses in the future. The Parks & Resources agency will be consulted to cooperate with the Commission to further promote recreational areas on fee-free fishing days. (Attachment E).

Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be February 4, 1987.

Guest List  
2-3-87

Bill Hanzlicks  
Ted Cunningham  
Woodman

Kansas Fish & Game  
Kansas Fur Harvesters  
KCPH

Pratt  
Harrington  
KCMo.

S.B. 59  
Legislative Testimony  
January, 1987

License Fee Structure Adjustment

The Kansas Fish & Game Commission operates under a comprehensive long-range plan. This includes planning of both income and expenditures based on current and future needs. Since the license and permit fees are the major source of income for the agency, they become an integral part of this plan.

The 1978 session of the legislature gave the Commission authority to set license and permit fees by rule and regulation within a framework established by Statute (KSA 32-164-b). With the license increase that became effective January 1, 1987, the major licenses have reached their maximum framework limits.

The initial framework for resident hunting and fishing licenses was from \$5.00 to \$10.00. The plan was for a \$1.00 increase every two years, except for the first increase which was \$2.00. The increase scheduled for January 1, 1986, was delayed for one year due to a better than expected fiscal position.

We feel that this process has worked well for us and has allowed for better management of our fiscal resources. We do not feel that we have abused this authority since the initial approval of the \$5.00 framework. This has covered a period of 10 years and our license structure is in line with most of our surrounding states. (See attached schedule.) Missouri is the exception where about \$35,000,000 is obtained annually from sales tax. Our agency has also just recently reduced its operating budget by over 5% as a long-range austerity effort.

No fee increase would occur with the passage of this legislation, but would allow us to obtain a fee increase by the regulatory process. Since this must be done by permanent regulation only, the earliest possible fee increase date is January 1, 1989.

It is felt that this process is vitally important to the fiscal management of this agency, and we urge that this legislation be passed as recommended.

Gregory  
(A)  
2-3-87

## Fact Sheet

### Fee Structure Adjustment

Prepared by: Kansas Fish & Game Comm.

Background: The 1978 session of the legislature gave the Commission authority to set license and permit fees by rule and regulation within a framework established by statute (KSA 32-164-b). With the license increase effective Jan. 1, 1987, several of the license fees will have reached their maximum. *5 Feb 1987*

Proposal: It is felt that this procedure has worked well for everyone involved and new maximums should be established to allow for future license increase by rule and regulation.

Recommended Legislation: Amend KSA 32-164-6 with new maximums as follows.

#### Recommended Increases in License Maximums

<u>License/Permit Type</u>	<u>Current Maximum</u>	<u>Jan. 1, 1987 Price</u>	<u>Recommended Maximum</u>
Resident Hunting	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$15
Nonresident Hunting	50	50	75
Resident Fishing	10	10	15
Nonresident Fishing	30	25	35
24 hr Fishing	2	2	5
Resident Furharvester	15	15	25
Nonresident Furharvester	400	250	750
Resident duplicate Hunt/Fish/Furh	3	3	5
Nonresident duplicate	5	3	10
Resident Furdealer	200	100	200
Combination Hunt/Fish	20	20	30
Nonresident Furdealer	400	200	750
Cont. Shooting Area	10	10	15
Resident Mussel Fishing	200	25	200
Nonresident Mussel Fishing	400	100	400
Game breeder	15	10	25
Live Rabbit trapping	15	10	25
Rabbit Shipping	200	200	400
Collecting Permit	10	5	25
Disable Veh. permit	5	3	15
Resident Big Game permits	100	Various	100
Nonresident Big Game permit	400	Various	400
Field Trial (Birds)	25	20	50
Field Trial (furbearers)	25	20	50
Comm. dog training	25	20	50
Hound trainer/breeder running	25	20	50
Water Event	50	20	50

Fiscal Impact: There would be no fiscal impact with the passage of this legislation.

Benefit Summary: By being able to set license fees by regulations, it is felt the license buyer has more direct input in the regulatory process with the required public hearings. The agency may chart its own destiny and tends to assume more of the consequences of a license increase.

**32-164b. Authority for commission to set fees by rule and regulation; schedule. (a)** Except as otherwise provided in this section, the Kansas fish and game commission is authorized to adopt rules and regulations fixing the amount of fees for the following items subject to the following limitations and subject to the requirement that no such rules and regulations shall be adopted as temporary rules and regulations:

Resident hunting license—not less than \$5 nor more than .....	<del>\$10</del> ←————	<u>\$15</u>
Nonresident hunting license—not less than \$25 nor more than .....	<del>50</del> ←————	<u>75</u>
Resident fishing license—not less than \$5 nor more than .....	<del>10</del> ←————	<u>15</u>
Nonresident fishing license—not less than \$15 nor more than .....	<del>30</del> ←————	<u>35</u>
Twenty-four-hour fishing license—not to exceed .....	<del>2</del> ←————	<u>5</u>
Resident furharvester license—not less than \$10 nor more than .....	<del>15</del> ←————	<u>25</u>
Nonresident furharvester license—not less than \$50 nor more than .....	<del>400</del> ←————	<u>750</u>
Resident duplicate license or permit (hunting, fishing, furharvesting)—not to exceed .....	<del>3</del> ←————	<u>5</u>
Nonresident duplicate license or permit (hunting, fishing, furharvesting)—not to exceed .....	<del>5</del> ←————	<u>10</u>
Resident fur dealer license—not less than \$50 nor more than .....	200	
Combination resident hunting and fishing license—not less than \$10 nor more than .....	<del>20</del> ←————	<u>30</u>
Nonresident fur dealer license—not less than \$50 nor more than .....	<del>400</del> ←————	<u>750</u>
Controlled shooting area hunting license—not less than \$5 nor more than (to be same as resident hunting license) .....	<del>10</del> ←————	<u>15</u>
Resident mussel fishing license—not less than \$25 nor more than .....	200	
Nonresident mussel fishing license—not less than \$50 nor more than .....	400	
Game breeders permit—not less than \$2 nor more than .....	<del>15</del> ←————	<u>25</u>
Live rabbit trapping permit—not to exceed .....	<del>15</del> ←————	<u>25</u>
Rabbit shipping permit—not less than \$25 nor more than .....	<del>200</del> ←————	<u>400</u>
Collecting for scientific and exhibition permit—not to exceed .....	<del>10</del> ←————	<u>25</u>
Disabled persons vehicle permit (lifetime)—not to exceed .....	<del>5</del> ←————	<u>15</u>
Resident big game hunting permit—not less than \$10 nor more than .....	100	
<i>Provided, That the commission may establish different permit fees for each class of big game animal within such limit.</i>		
Nonresident big game hunting permit—not less than \$30 nor more than .....	400	
<i>Provided, That the commission may establish different permit fees for each class of big game animal within such limit.</i>		
Field trial permits (game birds)—not less than \$10 nor more than .....	<del>25</del> ←————	<u>50</u>
Field trial permits (fur-bearing animals)—not less than \$10 nor more than .....	<del>25</del> ←————	<u>50</u>
Commercial dog training permit—not less than \$10 nor more than .....	<del>25</del> ←————	<u>50</u>
Hound trainer-breeder running permit—not less than \$10 nor more than .....	<del>25</del> ←————	<u>50</u>
Water event permit—not to exceed .....	<del>50</del>	

(b) From and after January 1, 1987, the fee for a landowner-tenant resident big game hunting permit shall be the amount equal to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the fee prescribed by law or rule and regulation for a general resident big game hunting permit.

(c) The fees prescribed for firearm permits shall be the same as the fees for archery permits.

(d) For the calendar year 1986, the fee for a twenty-four-hour fishing license shall be \$2. The fee for a furharvester license for a resident citizen under 16 years of age shall be the amount equal to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the fee prescribed by law or rule and regulation for a resident furharvester license.

(e) For the calendar year 1987: The fee for a general resident deer hunting permit shall be \$30; the fee for a general resident antelope hunting permit shall be \$35; the fee for a general resident elk hunting permit shall be \$75; the fee for a general resident turkey hunting permit shall be \$20; the fee for a nonresident turkey hunting permit shall be \$30; the fee for a nonresident landowner deer hunting permit shall be \$50; the fee for a nonresident landowner antelope hunting permit shall be \$60; and the fee for a nonresident landowner elk hunting permit shall be \$250.

**History:** L. 1978, ch. 152, § 14; L. 1981, ch. 174, § 2; L. 1982, ch. 175, § 9; L. 1985, ch. 131, § 3; L. 1985, ch. 134, § 3; L. 1986, ch. 149, § 4; L. 1986, ch. 151, § 1; Jan. 1, 1987.

SUMMARY OF KANSAS LICENSE FEE STRUCTURES  
 COMPARED WITH THOSE OF NEIGHBORING STATES  
 1987

License	Kansas	Oklahoma	Missouri	Colorado	Nebraska
Resident Fish	\$ 10.00 (1)	\$ 10.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 11.00	\$ 9.50
Resident Hunt (Small Game)	10.00	10.00	6.00	7.50	8.50 (2)
Resident Combination	20.00 (1)	18.25	10.50	15.00	17.50 (2)
Nonresident Fish (Annual)	25.00 (1)	18.25	15.00	35.00	20.00
Nonresident Fish (Trip)	5-day 10.00 (1) 24-hour 2.00 (4)	3-day 6.50 10-day 12.25	3-day 5.00 14-day 8.00	2-day 7.00 10-day 18.00	3-day 6.00
Nonresident Hunt (Small Game)	50.00	68.75	40.00	32.50	40.00 (2)
Res. Furharvester (Resident Trap)	Junior 7.50 Adult 15.00	5.75 Tags 10.75 (3)	6.00	Youth 10.00 Adult 30.00	15.00 (2)
Nonres. Furharvester (Nonresident Trap)	250.00	345.00 Tags 50.75 (3)	250.00	200.00	200.00 (Min) (2) (Reciprocal)
Habitat or Wildlife Stamp	---	---	---	---	7.50
Resident Fur Dealer	100.00	68.00	100.00	---	100.00
Nonresident Fur Dealer	200.00	325.00	300.00	---	500.00

- (1) Fish Hatchery Fee (\$3.00) is required in addition to license
- (2) Habitat Stamp (\$7.50) is also required with each hunting and trapping license
- (3) Tags are required for raccoon, bobcat and gray fox  
 Vendor's fee is included in the prices shown above for Oklahoma, Missouri and Colorado  
 Nebraska - Vendor's fee (50¢) is not included in prices shown above  
 Kansas - County Clerk/Vendor's fee (50¢ or \$1.00) is not included in prices shown above
- (4) Fish Hatchery fee of \$1.00 is required in addition to 24-hour license fee  
 Oklahoma Has a short-term nonresident hunting license for small game only, 5 days - \$14.50

1987 License Fee Structure  
 Compiled: January 1987



TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE  
SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ON SENATE BILL NO. 59

BY

DEAN WILSON  
FEBRUARY 3, 1987

I am a member of the Sierra Club, Topeka Audubon Society's Board of Directors and Conservation Issues Committee member, Kansas Wildlife Federation's Conservation Issues Committee, National Wildlife Federation, Kansas Cance Association (past president, past chairman of legislative committee), and Riley County Fish & Game Association. I am speaking on behalf of the Kansas Wildlife Federation.

The Kansas Wildlife Federation is in support of changing the maximum possible fee limits for the listed permits/licenses.

Dean W. Wilson  
3509 SE Highland Ave.  
Topeka, Kansas 66605  
913-266-6591  
Kansas Wildlife Federation  
Conservation Issues Committee

*Energy*  
B  
2-3-87

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE  
SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ON SENATE BILL NO. 60

BY

DEAN WILSON  
FEBRUARY 3, 1987

I am a member of the Sierra Club, Topeka Audubon Society's Board of Directors and Conservation Issues Committee member, Kansas Wildlife Federation's Conservation Issues Committee, National Wildlife Federation, Kansas Canoe Association (past president, past chairman of legislative committee), and Riley County Fish & Game Association. I am speaking on behalf of the Kansas Wildlife Federation.

The Kansas Wildlife Federation feels that the authorizing of free fishing days will allow many Kansans, as well as out-of-state, anglers/non-anglers to experience fishing in Kansas. This is the best promotional tool available. We are in support of this bill.

Dean W. Wilson  
3509 SE Highland Ave.  
Topeka, Kansas 66605  
913-266-6591  
Kansas Wildlife Federation  
Conservation Issues Committee

*Wagon*  
(C)

2-3-87

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

For the record I am Ted Cunningham and I represent the Kansas Furharvesters. I suspect many thousands of Kansas license buyers might raise the same questions we raise could they be here today.

Our position will not be appreciated by the Kansas Fish and Game Commission but we believe it is a position that must be explored.

We testified in favor of the original legislation, during the 1978 session, that gave the agency statutory authority to raise fees by rules and regulations. At that time we felt such authority was necessary to keep pace with increasing agency costs and that it would be much simpler to create an increase by rules and regulations than by the legislative process. We believed the agency would only use its authority as an emergency tool and not make increases whenever the statute allowed them to do so.

We believe Senate Bill 59 is, in fact, a projected price list of license fees we face when time constraints have expired on this new bill. We believe the listed fee increases are going to come on line at regular intervals until maximums are reached.

We base our assumptions on at least two points: 1. Almost every fee has increased to the allowable limit within the time frame set down in the existing statute and 2. The agency has used its fee increase authority in lieu of any other funding sources.

The Kansas Fish and Game Commission has absolutely no commitment for new funding sources in its 1987 legislative program. Their only source of funding is once again placed on licence buyers. There must be a change in attitude on the agency's part, as well as a change in thinking by the general public and this body if the agency is to remain viable and survive in future years.

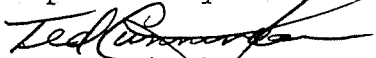
*Eric G. Gage*  
(D)

2-3-87

We are deeply concerned with proposed fee increases relating to furharvesting activities. We believe fees are based on what some feel are high profits from fur taking and therefore high fees are justified. We tend to forget the hundreds of farm kids and part time trappers who pursue the sport with little or no profit each year. We are not in favor of the fees as listed and we ask that a new fee schedule be examined before Senate Bill 59 progresses. We ask the agency to meet with the Kansas Furharvesters so our concerns may be addressed before the fact.

Presently, we believe this bill may even be premature. With the many rumors floating about concerning a reorganization of the Kansas Fish and Game Commission we would suggest Senate Bill 59 be held in this committee until such rumors are laid to rest or become fact. We feel if there is a reorganization the new administration should certainly be involved in fee changes wherever necessary and if necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Ted Cunningham  
303 South E Street  
Herington, Kansas 67449

b3d2

# Is Your State Equipped to Meet Environmental Challenges?

This chart summarizes the results of a 50-state survey of seven types of environmental laws. Each state approaches the protection of the environment differently, making simple classification of environmental statutes difficult. For the purpose of this survey, a state is indicated as having enacted a particular regulation when the following criteria are met:

**State NEPAs:** Only those states that require preparation of an environmental impact statement in conjunction with major state actions are considered to have a state NEPA.

**Wetlands Protection Act:** Although most states regulate their wetlands in some form or another, only those states which have enacted legislation specifically designed to preserve and pro-

tect wetlands are indicated.

**State Superfunds:** All legislation that provides for the state's emergency clean-up of hazardous waste spills is indicated, regardless of whether a fund is established for the purpose.

**Mined Land Reclamation Laws:** All statutes providing for reclamation of mined land are indicated.

**Conservation Easement Laws:** All statutes providing for easements to preserve natural lands, scenic areas, historic areas, or open space are indicated.

**Nongame Species Fund:** Only those states that set aside funds exclusively for nongame species preservation are indicated. States which specifically provide for preservation of wildlife as part of a general game and wildlife fund are indicated with an asterisk. State

funds for the preservation of game species that do not mention nongame species are not indicated. In addition, substantial nongame protection programs are being administered by conservation agencies in New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, and Missouri, even though these states have no statutory nongame-preservation provision. There may be other states with administratively created programs.

**State Wild & Scenic Rivers Acts:** Only statewide river protection programs are indicated. States designating single rivers for protection are not indicated.

**Groundwater Standards:** This classification is not included in the chart because state regulatory approaches to groundwater preservation vary too

widely to permit classification. Ideally, a state groundwater protection scheme will provide for classification of groundwater uses throughout the state, impose purity standards for these uses, and impose permitting standards that prevent any degradation in water quality.

*The law firm of Berle, Kass & Case prepared this survey in October 1986 for National Audubon Society, using the most current published information available to it in New York City. Although an effort has been made to compile a chart that is complete and accurate through September 30, 1986, Berle, Kass and Case is admitted to practice only in New York and therefore can take no responsibility for errors or omissions with respect to the laws of any other state. Before relying on this chart, consult local statutes for more information.*

## SUMMARY OF STATE ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

STATE	STATE NEPA	WETLANDS PROTECTION	STATE SUPERFUND	MINED LAND RECLAMATION	CONSERVATION EASEMENTS	NONGAME SPECIES FUND	STATE WILD RIVERS ACT
ALABAMA	No*	No*	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
ALASKA	No*	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
ARIZONA	No*	No*	Yes	No	Yes	No*	No
ARKANSAS	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
CALIFORNIA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
COLORADO	No	No*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
CONNECTICUT	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
DELAWARE	No*	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
D.C.	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
FLORIDA	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
GEORGIA	No*	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
HAWAII	Yes	No*	No	No	Yes	No	No
IDAHO	No*	No*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
ILLINOIS	No*	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No*
INDIANA	Yes	No*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IOWA	No*	No*	Yes	Yes	Yes	No*	Yes
KANSAS	No	No*	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
KENTUCKY	No*	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
LOUISIANA	No*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No*	Yes
MAINE	No*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
MARYLAND	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
MASSACHUSETTS	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
MICHIGAN	No*	No*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
MINNESOTA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
MISSISSIPPI	No*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
MISSOURI	No	No*	Yes	Yes	Yes	No*	No
MONTANA	Yes	No*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
NEBRASKA	No*	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
NEVADA	No*	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
NEW HAMPSHIRE	No*	No*	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No*
NEW JERSEY	No*	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
NEW MEXICO	No*	No	Yes	Yes	No	No*	No
NEW YORK	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No*	Yes
NO. CAROLINA	Yes	No*	Yes	Yes	Yes	No*	Yes
NO. DAKOTA	No*	No*	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
OHIO	No*	No*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
OKLAHOMA	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
OREGON	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
PENNSYLVANIA	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
PUERTO RICO	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
RHODE ISLAND	No*	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
SO. CAROLINA	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
SO. DAKOTA	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
TENNESSEE	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
TEXAS	No*	No*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
UTAH	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
VERMONT	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
VIRGINIA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
WASHINGTON	Yes	No*	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
W. VIRGINIA	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
WISCONSIN	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
WYOMING	No*	No	No*	Yes	No	No	No

\*The state has some type of regulation in this area, but it does not meet our requirements, as set out in the text.

Gulengy  
(E)  
2-3-87

# Kansas Fish & Game

HEADQUARTERS  
BOX 54A, RT. 2, PRATT, KS 67124



(316) 672-5911

## TESTIMONY presented to SENATE ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Chairman: Merrill Werts

Date: February 3, 1987

Subject: Senate Bill 60

Presenter: Bill Hanzlick, Director, Kansas Fish and Game Commission

I am here today to discuss with you the provisions of Senate Bill 60, which, if enacted, will allow for the establishment of "free fishing days" in Kansas.

During calendar year 1985, an estimated 550,000 anglers exerted in excess of ten million days fishing Kansas waters. Total fishing license sales for this period were 298,979. As is apparent by the above figures, this legislation would promote one of our state's already most popular and enjoyable pastimes.

This proposal is not without trial in other states across the U.S. As of September of 1986, the following states have celebrated free fishing days:

Arizona  
Arkansas  
Idaho  
Illinois  
Michigan  
Minnesota

Missouri  
New Jersey  
Oklahoma  
Pennsylvania  
South Dakota  
Wisconsin

The general concensus of other states' experiences with this approach is that "free fishing days" involves more people (in state and out of state) in the sport of fishing.

Free fishing days represent an invitation to out-of-state anglers to fish Kansas. It is an invitation for Kansas residents who have not recently fished to become re-involved with sport fishing and its many benefits. Also, it is an opportunity "non-fishing" parents have to take their children out for a day of fishing at a minimal cost.

During free fishing days, tackle manufacturers and sporting goods stores do better business. Participants purchase food and gas, stay in motels, and circulate dollars, benefiting local communities.

The Fish and Game Commission hopes to attract new anglers who will purchase future licenses which generate more revenues, translating to a brighter angling future.

Free fishing days work because everyone benefits.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

*Energy  
(F)*

2-3-87

## FREE FISHING DAYS—SOME THOUGHTS

The Sport Fishing Institute pursues a course of husbanding more and better sport fishing opportunities. Under proper management of our renewable fisheries resources, sport fishing opportunities can expand and flourish in this country. The rewards of sport fishing are both diverse and generous. Most *SFI BULLETIN* readers can readily recall days of their youth spent afield with their folks and/or friends in unflinching pursuit of some finny quarry. The conversation, companionship and equality of purpose engendered by such days on the water, are perhaps reward enough to keep the SFI program humming. But the nutritional contributions and enormous economic activity generated by sport fishing have become further catalysts for our continuing and expanding efforts. The full range of benefits associated with fishing often last a lifetime, and youngsters who have never been exposed to sport fishing have been, in a very real sense, deprived of a lasting enrichment in their lives.

One excellent means of increasing public awareness of the many benefits of family fishing excursions, and one fully endorsed and promoted by the Sport Fishing Institute, is the annual Free Fishing Days concept. At least three states (Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Illinois) have now initiated such programs.

A rationale for Free Fishing Days appeared in a recent edition of the Illinois Department of Conservation's *Outdoor Highlights*. This sage statement entitled "Why Free Fishing Days?" is reproduced below in its entirety.

Why Free Fishing Days?

That's a question we've heard from time to time since the announcement that June 7-10 will be Free Fishing Days in Illinois. On those four days anyone can fish Illinois waters without having a fishing license. That includes all public waters in the state, private waters if the angler obtains permission from the owner, and is for residents and non-residents alike. The only requirement is that participants must obey fishing laws that govern the sport of fishing.

But why Free Fishing Days?

Some people have speculated that it is a measure to help bait shops and sporting goods stores. Others have guessed the Department of Conservation wants to increase the number of persons visiting state parks throughout the state. A few have suggested it is a way to give some business to fishing guides and tackle manufacturers.

All are partially correct, but the best guess, and the one that is the most correct, is that it is a public relations gimmick dreamed up by the Department of Conservation. That's exactly what it is.

But it goes beyond being *just* a public relations gimmick.

It's the State of Illinois' way of telling the public that if they are going fishing, to give Illinois a try. It's an invitation to out-of-state anglers to put a hook in our waters. It's an invitation for persons who may have been anglers a few years

ago to give it a try again, and a chance to introduce non-anglers to the sport of fishing at a minimal cost. It's also a means that will enable a non-fishing parent to take the kids out for a day of fishing.

That's a little bit of why we say it's a public relations gimmick, but there's more.

It's also the Department of Conservation's way of saying that Illinois has some of the best fishing to be found anywhere. It's no secret that Illinois has been handicapped the past two to three decades by an outdated fish hatchery system, and that many Illinois anglers began fishing other states that could offer better fishing.

That's all changed, however. With the construction and operation of the new Sand Ridge Fish Hatchery, plus the increased production of the renovated Little Grassy Fish Hatchery, the continued support of the Spring Grove Fish Hatchery, and the innovative creation of spawning and rearing ponds by fisheries biologists, Illinois today is stocking literally millions more fish of many more species into the waters that dot the state.

Those millions of fish mean Illinois can compete with fishing areas throughout the United States. No longer do anglers have to drive hundreds of miles for good fishing; Illinois anglers can fish, with minimal expense, near their home. The dedicated Illinois angler—those that fish our waters regularly—already know that statement is true.

During Free Fishing Days the tackle manufacturers and sport and tackle stores stand to do better business. Other businesses will profit, too. Participants will buy gas and food, stay in motels and hotels, and they will circulate dollars that will benefit entire communities.

The Department of Conservation hopes to attract new anglers during Free Fishing Days—anglers that will purchase licenses that will generate revenues which will go toward raising more fish for our lakes and streams. That translates to even better fishing in the future.

But the real winner—the persons we think Free Fishing Days really is designed for—are the new or renewed angler. Those persons will benefit the most because they will have been introduced to one of the most popular activities of all time—the sport of fishing. Once they're hooked on fishing they become part of the Department of Conservation's family of boosters.

We suspect our angling readers would have been on the lakes and streams of Illinois this June 7-10 whether we had Free Fishing Days or not. We hope each of them will take the opportunity to introduce at least one of their non-angling friends to the sport.

Why Free Fishing Days: Because everyone benefits!