

**Testimony on SB 160 relating to Fish and Mussel Valuation
To
The House Committee on Agriculture**

**By Brad Loveless
Secretary
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22 March 2021

SB 160 seeks to update the fish and mussel valuation process for illegally commercialized wildlife. **The Department requested introduction and supports the provisions contained in the bill.** The provisions of the bill would be effective upon publication in the statute book.

The bill deals with updating the valuation process for illegally commercialized wildlife. The American Fisheries Society publishes guidelines for determining monetary restitution values for fish and mussels that are illegally taken. This is applicable in Kansas only for cases involving illegal commercialization. The current guideline in statute uses special publication number 30, first enacted in 2003, and the Department is requesting to change to special publication number 35, the most current version of the manual that was produced in 2017.

Some examples comparing the two versions of the valuation manual are below:

Species	#30	#35	Cost is per fish.
Walleye 6"	\$3.68	\$2.99	
Darter species 3"	\$0.68	\$0.77	
Channel Catfish 6"	\$0.38	\$1.03	(other catfish species are the same price)
Sunfish sp. 6" smallmouth bass)	\$0.88	\$1.73	(warmouth, redear, bluegill, not including largemouth, spotted,
Largemouth bass 6"	\$1.81	\$2.24	

The Department appreciates the opportunity to address the Committee on the bill and the support of the Committee on the bill.