

ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

K.A.R. 115-7-8. Fishing; tournaments.

DESCRIPTION: This new permanent regulation sets for procedures for having a registered and permitted bass fishing tournament. The procedures are designed to reduce fish mortality as well as gather critical catch data to better improve fisheries management. The proposed regulation contains application provisions, requirements on the organization and individuals participating, provision for release of the fish after weigh-in, and requirements for release sites. By holding the registered and permitted tournaments, the anglers are allowed to cull fish when they reach the daily creel limit as well as keep up to two bass that meet the statewide length limit but not the length limit for the specific body of water where the tournament is located.

FEDERAL MANDATE: None.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: The use of the tournament bass pass and culling will most likely encourage individuals and organizations to hold tournaments on waters previously avoided because of the length limit restrictions. Therefore, there may be some collateral positive economic impact to businesses in the areas where tournaments will be held but any amount would be purely speculative. Otherwise, we would anticipate no substantive economic impact to the department, other state agencies, or the public.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: None.