

115-7-4. Fish; processing and possession. (a) Each person who takes any fish subject to any length limit; either statewide or water body-specific, shall leave the head, body, and tail fin attached while the person has possession of the fish on the water.

(b) Each person who has taken any fish shall retain the fish in that person's possession until any of the following occurs:

(1) The fish is consumed or processed for consumption.

(2) The fish is transported to the person's domicile or given to another person. Legally taken sport fish may be possessed without limit in time and may be given to another if accompanied by a dated written notice that includes the donor's printed name, signature, address, and permit or license number.

(3) The fish is transported to a place of commercial preservation or place of commercial processing for consumption.

(4) The fish is returned unrestrained to the waters from which the fish was taken.

(5) The fish is disposed of at a location designated for fish disposal or at a designated fish cleaning station.

(c) Each paddlefish permittee shall meet either of the following requirements:

(1) Nonelectronic carcass tags. The paddlefish permittee shall sign, record the county, the date, and the time of kill, and attach the carcass tag to the carcass in a visible manner immediately before reducing the paddlefish to permanent possession. The carcass tag shall remain attached to the carcass until the conditions of paragraph (b)(1), (b)(2), (b)(3), or (b)(5) are met. The paddlefish permittee shall retain the carcass tag until the paddlefish is consumed, given to another, or otherwise disposed of.

(2) Electronic carcass tags. Using the department's electronic carcass tag system, the paddlefish permittee shall record the county, the date, and the time of kill and enter a photograph of the entire carcass, with sufficient clarity to display the species immediately before reducing the paddlefish to permanent possession. The paddlefish permittee shall possess the confirmation number until the conditions of paragraph (b)(1), (b)(2), (b)(3), or (b)(5) are met. The paddlefish permittee shall retain the confirmation number until the paddlefish is consumed, given to another, or otherwise disposed of.

(d) For paddlefish parts, the following additional requirements shall apply:

(1) No person shall possess any eggs that are attached to the egg membrane of more than one paddlefish.

(2) No person shall possess more than three pounds of processed paddlefish eggs or fresh paddlefish eggs removed from the membrane. "Processed paddlefish eggs" shall mean any eggs taken from a paddlefish that have gone through a process that turns the eggs into caviar or into a caviar-like product.

(3) No person shall ship into or out of, transport into or out of, have in possession with the intent to transport, or cause to be removed from this state any raw unprocessed paddlefish eggs, processed paddlefish eggs, or frozen paddlefish eggs.

(4) Each harvested paddlefish carcass shall have all internal organs removed before transporting the carcass from Kansas. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 32-807; effective Dec. 26, 1989; amended Nov. 27, 2006; amended Dec. 22, 2017; amended Jan. 11, 2019; amended Dec. 20, 2019; amended Oct. 14, 2022.)