

2025-26 FORT KNOX FISHING GUIDELINES

**Changes from 2024 are in italics.*

This guide is a summary of the regulation regarding fishing on Fort Knox. All personnel age 16 and over fishing on the Fort Knox Military Reservation are required to possess a valid 2025 Commonwealth of Kentucky Fishing License, Senior/Disabled License, or Sportsman's License, in addition to a current 2025 Fort Knox Fishing Permit (Fort Knox Fishing Permit not required at Carlson Lake). A Kentucky Trout Permit is required for trout fishing in all Fort Knox waters. **A printed iSportsman fishing permit for each individual in vehicle over 16 years of age must be displayed in the driver's side of windshield (address and phone number can be obscured).**

- NO LITTERING, violators will be cited and permanently suspended. IF YOU CARRY IT IN, CARRY IT OUT!!

ACCESS TO THE INSTALLATION FOR FISHING:

Reference the Fort Knox 1:36,000 Hunting and Fishing Map for the lakes listed below. **Check-in/out through the [iSportsman website \(https://ftknox.isportsman.net\)](https://ftknox.isportsman.net) is required for the following lakes:**

Hunting Area	Lake		Hunting Area	Lake
40A	Marcum		95	Cundiff
48	Duck Lake		95	Zazios
6	West Point Wells		95	Hudic
95	Woods		112	Lebanon Junction
1	Carpenter		14	Tobacco Leaf

All other rivers, creeks, streams, and any other un-named lakes or ponds also require daily check-in/out through the [iSportsman website \(https://ftknox.isportsman.net\)](https://ftknox.isportsman.net). Anglers may check into only one area at a time. Failure to check out by the designated time through iSportsman will be grounds for suspension of Fort Knox fishing and hunting privileges.

During the Spring Turkey Season fishermen are only permitted to check into Carpenter, Tobacco Leaf, and Duck Lake before 1:00 pm. After 1:00 the remaining areas open for fishing will be available for check-in.

The following managed lakes are open daily with no clearance through the Hunt Control Office required:

Hunting Area	Lake		Hunting Area	Lake
4	Crystal		80	Lower Douglas
9	Carlson*		80	Upper Douglas
16	Ordnance Lake 1		TA11	Dickerson
73	Sanders Springs		20	Castle Lake

* See FINS Section below for special regulations at this lake.

The portion of Otter Creek 300 yards upstream of the pump station to 200 yards downstream of Camp Carlson is open during daylight hours for fishing. The boundary of this area is delineated by yellow "Trout Fishing Regulations for Otter Creek" signs.

The following lakes and rivers are CLOSED or OFF LIMITS:

Pitts Point Lake

Rolling Fork River

Wilcox Lake

Ordnance Lake 2

McCracken Springs Reservoir

Salt River upstream of Main Range Road Bridge (may be open Memorial Day only, Check in/out required, info available week prior)

MANAGED LAKES:

- Gasoline motors are permitted at idle speed only (slowest forward position of throttle).
- Only two poles may be used at one time per person.
- **Possession and use of live minnows and fish for bait are prohibited.**
- **Trotlines, juglines, limblines, seining, trapping, and bowfishing are prohibited.**
- Carp must be immediately returned to the waters from which they are caught.

SIZE AND CREEL LIMITS ON MANAGED WATERS (Other than Carlson Lake and Castle Lake)

SPECIES	SIZE	CREEL LIMIT
Trout (Otter Creek): Rainbow Brown	None 16"	6, singly or combined, no more than 1 brown trout
Channel Catfish	12"	5
Black Bass*	15"	5
Bluegill, Redear, Sunfish	None	20**
Crappie	None	20
Hybrid Striped & Striped Bass	15"	5

* Duck Lake is unmanaged but has a 15" size limit on Black Bass

** No creel limit on sunfish at Crystal Lake.

Delayed Harvest Trout Program at Otter Creek.

- The delayed harvest program applies to all of Otter Creek within Fort Knox except the portion 300 yards upstream of the pump station to 200 yards downstream of Camp Carlson; there are no restrictions on bait in this portion of Otter Creek.
- In the delayed harvest area, anglers shall use **artificial lures only** from October 1–March 31.
- All trout caught in the delayed harvest area will be immediately released back into the water during the period October 1-March 31.
- Trout may be kept and organic baits may be used during the remainder of the year.
- Refer to the “Access to the installation for fishing” above for sign in/out requirements.

FINS (Fishing in the Neighborhoods)

Carlson Lake is enrolled in the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources FINS program. A Kentucky fishing license is required, but a Fort Knox fishing permit is not required at this lake. Special regulations apply at this lake and are posted on signs. (Dickerson Lake is no longer a FINS lake and a Fort Knox permit is required.)

SIZE AND CREEL LIMITS FOR CARLSON LAKE AND CASTLE LAKE

SPECIES	SIZE	CREEL LIMIT
Channel and Blue Catfish	None	4
Black Bass	15"	1
Bluegill and other sunfish	None	15

UNMANAGED LAKES, CREEKS, and STREAMS

Boats and motors are authorized for fishing. All types of bait are authorized except game fish. **Kentucky size and creel limits apply to unmanaged waters with the exception of Black Bass at Duck Lake, (15" size limit).**

-Trotlines are authorized in **unmanaged waters only**, but not more than two lines per person. Kentucky Fishing License and Fort Knox Fishing Permit required. Lines must be tagged at both ends with post Fishing Permit number. No more than 50 single or multi-barbed hooks per line and the hooks must not be closer than 18" apart. Trotlines must be checked at least once every 24 hours, **JUGLINES ARE PROHIBITED.**

-Bowfishing for rough fish is authorized in **UNMANAGED WATERS ONLY.** Kentucky Fishing License and Fort Knox Fishing Permit required. Arrows must be connected to bow by means of a line. Fishing-type arrows only in possession.

FROGGING: Opens at noon on the third Friday in May thru October 31. Daily noon-to-noon creel limit is 15, possession limit 30.

Gig: Kentucky Fishing or Hunting License and Fort Knox Fishing or Small Game Permit required.

Bow and Arrow: Kentucky Hunting License and Fort Knox Small Game Hunting Permit required. Arrows must be connected to bow by means of a line. Same type of arrows as for rough fish.

CHECK IN/OUT PROCEDURES SAME AS IDENTIFIED ABOVE FOR FISHING ACCESS.

ADDITIONAL RULES:

- Camping at Fort Knox is not allowed, except for military affiliated personnel at Camp Carlson.
- Privately-owned vehicles are not authorized on unimproved roads, trails, dams, or firebreaks.
- There will be no fishing on Quota Gun Deer Hunting weekends, except at Camp Carlson and Dickerson Lakes.
- No open fires allowed.
- *Each angler will use their own iSportsman account to make area reservations and check-in/out of hunting areas. Utilizing any other accounts other than your own in any capacity is strictly prohibited and grounds for suspension.*
- For more information email the Hunt Control Office at usarmy.knox.id-training.mbx.dpw-hunt-control@army.mil