

SPORT FISHING GUIDE AND BUSINESS LICENSING INFORMATION

- State regulations (5 AAC 75.075) require that all business owners and guides providing sport fishing guide services in Alaska must be licensed with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). The license must be obtained each year before guiding services begin and expires the last day of the current year.
- License applications are available online at www.admin.adfg.state.ak.us/license/, or apply in person at any Alaska Department of Fish and Game office.
- Complete information on guide and business licensing is available at www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/Guides/.

U.S. COAST GUARD REQUIREMENTS FOR GUIDES

Guides carrying passengers in a motorized vessel in navigable waters must obtain a U.S. Coast Guard Operator's License. For more information, call the Coast Guard Regional Exam Center in Anchorage at (907) 271-6736, or refer to the following website: www.uscg.mil/nmc/.

SPORT FISHING CHARTER VESSEL REGISTRATION

In 2010, all saltwater and freshwater sport fishing charter vessels must be registered through the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. This applies to both powered and non-powered charter vessels. Vessel registration will require a current AK number issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles: www.doa.alaska.gov/dmv/reg/boat.htm

Or, a U.S. Coast Guard Documentation Number: www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/nvdc/.

Single person float tubes are the only exception from vessel registration requirements.

LOGBOOK REQUIREMENTS

All freshwater and saltwater sport fishing guide operators are required to maintain an ADF&G-issued logbook of their clients' catch. All freshwater and saltwater sport fishing guides are required to record the Alaska sport fishing license number, permanent license number, or disabled veteran license number of each client in the logbook. Logbooks are available at all Fish and Game offices and are provided when you register your vessel.

A MESSAGE FOR ANGLERS

ADF&G does not endorse any fishing guide or fishing service; check with the area Chamber of Commerce or Better Business Bureau if you have questions about a specific guide or service.

TIPS—if you plan to release your fish . . .

Tackle

- Use strong line to bring your catch in quickly.
- Fish caught with flies or lures survive more often than fish caught with bait.
- Overly large hooks can damage mouth parts or eyes.
- Small hooks may be taken deeply by fish.
- Use steel hooks that will quickly rust out; avoid using stainless steel hooks.
- Use pliers to pinch barbs down.

Landing your catch

- Land your fish as carefully and quickly as possible.
- Avoid removing the fish from the water.
- If you are ice-fishing, don't lay your fish on the ice.

Removing the hook

- Remove the hook quickly and gently, keeping the fish underwater.
- Use long-nosed pliers or a hemostat to back the hook out.
- When a fish is hooked deeply, cut the line near the hook.
- Cut your line rather than injure an active fish.

Reviving your catch

- Point your fish into a slow current or gently move it back and forth until its gills are working and it maintains its balance.
- When the fish recovers and attempts to swim out of your hands, let it go.
- Large fish may take some time to revive. □

Angler ethics . . .

- ❖ Don't pollute—please haul trash out of the field and dispose of it properly. Remember that discarded fishing line can be lethal to birds and other wildlife.
- ❖ Obey fishing regulations.
- ❖ Respect private property. Native allotments and other private land holdings are common along Alaska's waterways; seek permission before using private land.
- ❖ Think about your needs and take only the fish you require. Preserve your fish appropriately.
- ❖ If you plan to kill fish, do so quickly and humanely. If you plan to release fish, handle them gently and do not remove them from the water.
- ❖ Minimize stream bank erosion.

FISHING INFORMATION UPDATES:

The department provides recorded messages to the public about fishing opportunities and inseason changes in regulations. For recorded messages in the Southeast Alaska area, call: Juneau (465-4116), Haines (766-2625), and Ketchikan (225-0475).