



# DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

## *D i v i s i o n o f S p o r t F i s h*

### **HOUSE BILL 41 (HB41) SPORT FISHING GUIDE LICENSING**

During the 2015 legislative session Representative Tilton and Representative Muñoz co-sponsored HB 41 to reauthorize the sport fishing guide licensing statutes that sunsetted on December 31, 2014. HB 41 passed in the House of Representatives but did not make it to the Senate floor for a vote before the end of the 2015 legislative session. The bill will be up for consideration in the Senate during the upcoming 2016 legislative session.



#### **How will passage of this bill benefit sport fishing guides and charter business operators?**

- Ensures that guided resident and non-resident sport fishing anglers hire a qualified professional guide who provides a safe and enjoyable sport fishing experience.
- Ensures that guides meet basic professional standards that protect the guided angler, and it promotes the viability and legitimacy of a professional sport fishing guide industry.
- Licensed guides and businesses protect the guiding industry from unprofessional and unethical guides that could result in damaged reputations of professional guides and charter operators.



#### **Without passage of HB41, guided sport fishing clients could find:**

- That their guide or operator does not carry liability insurance coverage.
- That their guide or operator is not a citizen of the U.S., Canada, Mexico, or is a resident alien.
- That their guide or operator does not hold a current first aid certification from an appropriate certifying entity.



#### **If HB41 passes, what professional standards will be required of the guided sport fishing industry?**

- All guides and operators will be required to be certified in first aid.
- All operators will be required to obtain general liability insurance within defined minimums.
- All guides and operators will be required to pay a fee to the department to administer the guide licensing program.
- Establishes penalties if the guide or operator aids in the commission of a violation.

#### **How will the guide and operator license fees be used by the Division of Sport Fish?**

Revenues generated by the license fees cover the administrative costs required to manage the guide licensing and logbook program.