



DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

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

HISTORY OF THE GUIDE LICENSING PROGRAM

In May, 2004, the Alaska Legislature adopted House Bill 452 which established statewide licensing requirements for sport fishing guide business owners and sport fishing guides. The bill was created to establish minimum professional standards required of both freshwater and saltwater guides and business owners. The legislation also incorporated many of the existing elements contained within the guide registration and logbook regulations at that time. The new standards were established to protect consumers and to promote the viability and legitimacy of a professional sport fishing guide industry.



House Bill 452 was supported by the department and most sectors of the guide industry.

The standards contained in the legislation for sport fishing charter businesses required them to:

- Obtain a State of Alaska Occupational Business License,
- Secure liability insurance with a minimum of \$300,000 coverage for all instances in a year,
- Pay a license fee to the Department of Fish and Game.

These new standards for licensed guides required them to:

- Be citizens of the U.S., Canada, or Mexico;
- Hold a current first aid card from the American Red Cross;
- Have a current Alaska sport fishing license;
- Have a valid U.S. Coast Guard operator's license if they provided sport fishing or sport fishing guide services while operating a motorized vessel in navigable waters; and,
- Pay a licensing fee to the Department of Fish and Game.



House Bill 452 contained a “sunset clause” which required the legislation to be reauthorized by the legislature. In 2014, sport fishing operator and guide licensing statutes expired, which resulted in sport fishing guides and charter operators only being required to register with the department. There are no longer requirements to meet minimum standards and to pay a licensing fee. However, the requirement to complete and submit fresh- and saltwater logbooks remains in regulation.