



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Sam Cotten, Commissioner

DIVISION OF SPORT FISH
Tom Brookover, Director

December 30, 2016

Sport Fishing Guide/Business Changes for 2017

There are several changes that will affect the sport fish charter industry in 2017. Below is a summary of the changes.

Freshwater Registration vs. Saltwater License:

License requirements for sport fishing guide business owners and sport fishing guides sunsetted December 31, 2014. House Bill 41 (HB 41) which would reinstate licensing requirements passed in the legislature in 2016, but only for saltwater and will go into effect on 1/1/2017. The Board of Fisheries (BOF) met to discuss the issue on December 3, 2016 and changed the language in regulation to include licensing for saltwater guides and businesses, while continuing the freshwater registration program for guides and businesses that operate in freshwater.

Freshwater sport fishing guides and businesses will continue to be required to register with the department using the same registration process with no fees required; logbooks and vessel registration are also still required. The net result for freshwater businesses and guides is there will be no changes from the 2016 processes and requirements. **If you register as a freshwater business and/or guide the registration will only be valid for freshwater operations.** If you are going to operate in saltwater you will need to obtain a saltwater license, which is valid for both water types.

Saltwater sport fish guides and businesses are required to be licensed, a fee and additional information is required in order to obtain a license. The additional information required will be the same as the information required prior to 2015; State of Alaska Business License Number and expiration date, proof of insurance for the business, citizenship certification, first aid training certification, and your USCG license # and expiration date if applicable. **A saltwater license will be valid for guiding activities in both fresh and salt waters.**

Freshwater Electronic Logbook (eLogBook):

Starting in 2017 freshwater businesses may use an ADF&G electronic logbook (eLogBook). Just like paper logbooks a guide must use eLogBooks that were issued to a business. The eLogBook will be issued to the business, who will then be able to issue the link to their eLogBook to the guide(s). The eLogBook collects the same information as the paper form except it does so in an electronic format. The eLogBook allows the guide to enter previously used information (vessel, guide, waters fished, species harvested or caught) which should expedite the reporting process. Once, the eLogBook has been loaded to a mobile device (smartphone, tablet, laptop, desktop) you can record trips without internet connectivity. When you return to a location with internet connectivity you will be able to upload the trip information entered on the device. There are a few conditions associated with using the eLogBook:

- 1) You must retain a paper logbook at all times to use in the event of technical difficulty or equipment failure.

- 2) You must allow a law enforcement officer to inspect the eLogBook trip data stored on the device when requested.
- 3) You agree to contact ADF&G at (907) 267-2299 within 24 hours (or the next ADF&G business day) in the event of technical difficulty.

If a business elects to use the eLogBook not all the guides for the business need to participate. If 4 guides work for a business, 2 guides can use the eLogBook and the other 2 can use paper logbooks. If a guide wants to try the eLogBook, but decides it's not for them, they can go back to using the paper logbook. All trips need to be reported either through the eLogBook or a paper logbook, but not both. If you would like further information about the eLogBook please contact Bob Powers at (907) 267-2299 or via email at: robert.powers@alaska.gov.

Saltwater Electronic Logbook (eLogBook):

We anticipate piloting an eLogBook for saltwater in 2017 and will need 15 to 20 businesses to participate. If you are interested please contact Bob Powers at (907) 267-2299 or via email at: robert.powers@alaska.gov.

Stable License/Registration Number:

In 2017, the department will begin issuing a license/registration number that will be consistent from year to year, i.e. if you are a guide in 2017 and your number is 12345 and you license/register with us again in 2018, you would get the same license number 12345 and the same number any year thereafter.

In order to issue a stable number across years a couple issues will need to be dealt with that will affect the industry.

- 1) If you apply for your license/registration at an area office using the 2-part temporary license/registration application you will receive a temporary number to use until your wallet size card with your permanent number arrives. Once, your wallet size card with your permanent number arrives you will need to use that on all your logbook sign out sheets and logbook pages. If you apply online or by using a renewal application (enclosed) you will not have a temporary number the card we issue will have your permanent number printed on it.
- 2) If you apply for a combination business/guide license/registration you will be issued two numbers one for the business and one for yourself as the guide, both these numbers will be the same from year to year. When signing out logbooks you will need to use your business license number, but for trips you guide you will need to use your guide license number. Both license numbers will be printed on your wallet size card and should follow you and your business across years. Guide only and business only folks will only have one number.

Youth Anglers:

Legislation was passed in 2016 that changes the age requirement for obtaining a sport fish license. Resident anglers will not need a sport fish license until they turn 18, the requirement for nonresident anglers remains unchanged and require a sport fish license once they reach 16 year old.

REMEMBER: ALL businesses must maintain a logbook while providing sport fish guiding services. License/registration applications, paper logbooks, vessel decals, year tabs, statistical area maps, and site code lists will be available at ADF&G area and regional offices. eLogBooks can be obtained by contacting Bob Powers at 907-267-2299 or robert.powers@alaska.gov.