




January 2021

Dear Alaska Sport Fishing Charter Business Owner and/or Guide,

You are receiving this letter because you were either a registered sport fishing charter business owner or guide in 2019 or 2020. All sport fish charter businesses and guides must register again in 2021. There are a few changes that will affect the sport fishing charter industry in 2021. This letter is to inform you of these changes.

***All sport fishing businesses and guides are required to register but no fees are required. All vessels used for guiding must also be registered. For saltwater operators and guides, logbooks are still required but a logbook is no longer required for freshwater operators and guides.***

You may apply for your 2021 registration in the following ways:

- Use the department's online store at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/store/>. A **confirmation number indicating** your application was received will appear at the end of your successful application and can be printed. This number **is not** your ADF&G Business/Guide registration number. A wallet sized card containing your registration number will be emailed to you within three business days. **Do not operate until you receive your wallet sized card.**
- Complete the enclosed application, also available on the Dept. of Fish & Game (ADF&G) website at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=SFGuidesLicense.guidelicense> and mail it to the address on top of the application. A wallet sized card, which is your registration, will be emailed to you within 21 days.
-  ADF&G office (paper available now, change mid-February): This option will change in 2021. Instead of completing a two-part paper registration application you will provide the required information to ADF&G staff who will complete the application for you online and give you a temporary registration good for 14 days. A wallet sized card, which is your annual registration, will be emailed to you after your application has been processed, and should be sent within three business days.

For additional information on business and guide requirements, please refer to the ADF&G website at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=prolicenses.sportfishguides>.

#### Reminders for 2021:

- Freshwater logbooks are no longer required. Business owners and guides must still register, and freshwater vessels used for guiding still need to be registered with ADF&G.
- Reminder - Per 5 AAC 75.075(g)(1)(B) saltwater guides must have logbooks with them while guiding.
- Reminder - Per 5 AAC 75.075(g)(5) saltwater operator's using a vessel must have the sport fishing license or a harvest card for each client on board the vessel.

- To expedite getting your registration card(s) to you, we will email your card(s) if you provide a valid email address on your application. The cards **are not valid until you print them**. Please keep the email with your registration card(s) in case you lose your card during the season, so you can reprint it. If you want a hard copy of your registration card, please review the instructions included in the email on how to obtain a hard copy.
- On your registration card(s), we have added an indicator whether the number is a *business registration* (BL) or *guide registration* (GL). In the logbooks, we've added the BL prefix to fields that require your business registration (the sign-out sheet) and the GL prefix to fields that require your guide registration (logbook pages).
- The federal government has implemented an annual registration requirement for Charter Halibut Permits (CHP) before they can be used for the year. For more information about the annual registration requirement please contact National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) – Restricted Access Management (RAM) Program at 1-800-304-4846 option #2 or [ram.alaska@noaa.gov](mailto:ram.alaska@noaa.gov).

### **Electronic Logbook (eLogBook) available for saltwater operators:**

 **Starting in 2021 saltwater operators in SOUTHEAST ALASKA will be required to use the electronic logbook to report sport fish guiding activity. If you have questions or comments about the requirement, please feel free to contact Tom Taube at [tom.taube@alaska.gov](mailto:tom.taube@alaska.gov) or 907-465-6184.**

### **Saltwater businesses in Southeast Alaska must use an ADF&G electronic logbook (eLogBook) in 2021.**

Saltwater businesses not in Southeast Alaska may use paper or electronic logbooks. Like a paper logbook, guides must use the eLogBook issued to a business. The eLogBook will be issued to the business which will then provide their guide(s) a link to the businesses eLogBook. The eLogBook requires the same information as the paper logbook in an electronic format. The eLogBook stores and allows the guide to enter previously used information (vessel, guide, waters fished, species harvested or caught) which should expedite the fishing trip data recording process. Once the eLogBook has been loaded to an electronic device (smartphone, tablet, laptop), 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:

- We **recommend** you retain a paper logbook to use in the event of a technical difficulty or equipment failure.
- You must allow a law enforcement officer to inspect the eLogBook trip data stored on your device when requested.
- You agree to follow all instructions in the paper logbook including when a logbook page must be completed and the timelines for submitting logbook trips.
- 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.

**In 2021, if you operate in Southeast Alaska guides will be required to use the electronic logbook.** If a business operates outside of Southeast Alaska elects to use the eLogBook, not all the guides for the business need to participate. For example, if 4 guides work for a business, 2 guides can use the eLogBook and the other 2 can use paper logbooks. If a guide, not operating in Southeast Alaska, tries eLogBook but decides it's not for them, they can go back to using a paper logbook. All trips need to be reported either through the eLogBook or a paper

logbook, **but not both**. For further information about the eLogBook please contact Bob Powers at (907) 267-2299 or via email at [robert.powers@alaska.gov](mailto:robert.powers@alaska.gov).

### **Stable Registration Number:**

When the division issues your 2021 registration card(s) with your stable registration number(s), we'll include a BL prefix for *business registrations* and a GL prefix for *guide registrations*. Additionally, as described above, we'll include the BL and GL prefixes in the logbook indicating when a BL number is needed and when a GL number is needed.

The department will continue to issue a stable registration number from year to year, i.e. if you were a guide in 2020 and your number was 42345, and you register with us again in 2021, you will retain the same number in 2021 and every year thereafter.

To issue a stable number across years, a couple issues need to be dealt with that may affect you.

- If you apply for your registration at an area office, you will receive a temporary number to use until your wallet size card with your stable number arrives. Once your stable number arrives, use it on all your logbook sign out sheets and logbook pages. If you apply online or by using a renewal application (enclosed), you will not get a temporary number and your wallet size card emailed to you will have your stable number printed on it.
- If you apply for a combination business/guide registration, you will be issued two numbers: a business number (BL) and a guide number (GL), both remaining the same year to year. When signing out logbooks, use your business registration (BL) number, but for trips you guide use your guide registration (GL) number. Note: guide only and business only registrations will only have one number.

**REMEMBER: ALL** businesses must maintain a logbook while providing sport fish guiding services in saltwater. Registration applications, paper logbooks, vessel decals, year tabs, and statistical area maps will be available at ADF&G area and regional offices. eLogbook's can be obtained by contacting me at the number or email address below.

Thank you.



Robert Powers, Program Coordinator  
Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game – Div. of Sport Fish RTS  
333 Raspberry Rd. Anchorage, AK 99518  
(907) 267-2299  
[robert.powers@alaska.gov](mailto:robert.powers@alaska.gov)