

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO REGULATIONS FOR CHARTER BOAT REPORTING

The department plans to clarify who needs to submit the Commercial Charter Boat Captain's Daily Log.

When someone purchases a charter boat license they are issued a decal to attach to their vessel. The Annotated Code of Maryland requires commercial licensees to provide reports as the department requests. Currently, the regulation only requires the person who purchases the charter boat license decal to report their trips. A licensed fishing guide must operate the charter, but anyone can purchase the decal. It is common for charter boat owners to hire a captain (licensed guide) for their vessel. A licensed fishing guide that is operating a charter should be expected to be responsible for completing the reports. Making this change will ensure that the department knows who should be completing the form. Without complete reporting, management of the recreational fisheries is more heavily dependent on NOAA Fisheries Marine Recreational Information Program estimates rather than data directly reported by captains. This action is not requiring more reports, it will clarify who needs to complete them.