

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO REGULATIONS FOR CHARTER BOAT LICENSE DECALS

What will this proposal do?

It will update rules based on 2019 legislation (HB349) that allows guides fishing in the tidal waters of Maryland who are licensed in accordance with Natural Resources Article, §§4-210 and 4-210.1, Annotated Code of Maryland to buy the charter boat license decal.

Why is this change necessary?

The department may provide by regulation for issuance of a special charter boat license that is valid for all individuals on a charter boat operated by a licensed fishing guide in tidal waters. Currently, the regulation only allows guides with a commercial guide authorization (unlimited tidal fish license, resident fishing guide, nonresident fishing guide, or master fishing guide) to purchase the decal. Effective October 1, 2019, statute allows the charter boat license to be available to additional licensed fishing guides. Guides that are licensed in accordance with Natural Resources Article, §§4-210, 4-210.1 and 4-701, Annotated Code of Maryland may purchase the license decal.

The department needs to change the wording of the regulation to include the other types of guides so that they may benefit from the legislation. This is a housekeeping change based on legislation.

What does the charter boat license decal allow?

The charter boat license decal allows the fishing guide licensees to take out paying customers without their customers needing to purchase a secondary license for recreational tidal fishing.

Who will this affect?

Fishing guides licensed under Natural Resources Article, Sections 4-210 and 4-210.1. This includes a guides who provides fishing guide services in tidal waters of Maryland (Type L - limited fishing guide license) and a guide who provides fishing guide services in designated tidal waters of Maryland (Type NTT – freshwater fishing guide license).

Are there reporting requirements?

Yes. Guides are required to keep records of anglers fishing with them, which allows the state to meet the Federal Saltwater Angler Registry requirements and be exempted from requiring our anglers to pay for that federal registration.

When will this be effective?

The statute will be effective October 1, 2019. The regulation to implement the changes allow by the statute is expected to be effective in late December or early 2020.

Has this change be discussed with Advisory Commissions?

Yes. The change was scoped at the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission meeting on July 23, 2019 and at the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission meeting on July 25, 2019. The commissioners did not have comments about the change.

Additional Information

[House Bill 349](#)