



FISHING GUIDE LAWS:

COMAR:

08.02.18.02 Definitions.

A. In this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

B. Terms Defined.

- (1) "Department" means the Department of Natural Resources.
- (2) "Licensee" means an individual who holds a valid type NT, type NTT, or type L fishing guide license issued by the Department.
- (3) "Nonresident" means an individual who resides in a state other than Maryland on the date of application for or renewal of a fishing guide license.
- (4) Resident.
 - (a) "Resident" means an individual who resides in this State on the date of application for or renewal of a fishing guide license.
 - (b) "Resident" includes a member of the armed forces of the United States who is:
 - (i) On active duty; and
 - (ii) Stationed officially in this State.
- (5) "Striped bass" means the species *Morone saxatilis*, also known as rockfish, and all hybrids of striped bass.
- (6) "Fishing guide" means an individual who accepts direct or indirect consideration for providing instruction, direction, supervision, or transportation to an individual for the purpose of catching fish by angling.

08.02.18.03 Freshwater Fishing Guide License-Type NT.

A. A type NT freshwater fishing guide license, as authorized by Natural Resources Article, §4-210.1, Annotated Code of Maryland, authorizes the licensee to provide fishing guide services only in the nontidal waters of the State.

B. Striped Bass. An angler under the guidance of a licensee with a valid type NT license in nontidal waters of the State may:

- (1) Hook striped bass and immediately release the striped bass unharmed to the water from which the striped bass was taken; and

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(2) Harvest striped bass from the following areas:

- (a) Youghiogheny Reservoir;
- (b) Piney Run Reservoir;
- (c) Tridelphia Reservoir;
- (d) Loch Raven Reservoir;
- (e) Prettyboy Reservoir;
- (f) T. Howard Duckett (Rocky Gorge) Reservoir;
- (g) Liberty Reservoir; and
- (h) Conowingo Reservoir.

C. Fees. The fees for a type NT license are:

- (1) For a resident, \$20; and
- (2) For a nonresident, \$50.

D. General. Except in Deep Creek Lake, the maximum number of individuals present on a vessel which is operated by a licensee may not exceed four, including the licensee.

08.02.18.04 Freshwater Fishing Guide License-Type NTT.

A. A type NTT freshwater fishing guide license, as authorized by Natural Resources Article, §4-210.1, Annotated Code of Maryland, authorizes the licensee to provide fishing guide services in nontidal waters and designated tidal waters of the State.

B. Fishing Area. A type NTT license authorizes the licensee to provide fishing guide services in:

- (1) All nontidal waters of the State; and
- (2) The following designated areas located in tidal waters of the State:
 - (a) Chesapeake Bay upstream of a line from Sandy Point on Spesutie Island to Turkey Point;
 - (b) Elk River upstream of a line from Turkey Point to the State launching ramp at Pearce Creek;
 - (c) Pond Creek upstream of a line connecting the two unnamed points at the entrance to the creek;
 - (d) Sassafra River upstream of a line from Grove Point to Howell Point;
 - (e) Still Pond Creek upstream of a line from Meeks Point to Rocky Point;
 - (f) Worton Creek upstream of a line from Copeland Point to Handys Point;
 - (g) Fairlee Creek upstream of a line across the entrance of the creek;
 - (h) Chester River upstream of a line from Spaniard Point to Nichols Point;
 - (i) Corsica River, a tributary of the Chester River, upstream of a line from Spaniard Point to Holton Point;
 - (j) Langford Creek, a tributary of the Chester River, upstream of a line from Nichols Point to Grays Inn Point;
 - (k) Grays Inn Creek, a tributary of the Chester River, upstream from Grays Inn Point to Little Gum Point;
 - (l) Choptank River upstream of the Dover Bridge on Route 331;

- (m) Blackwater River upstream of a line from the lower point of Snake Island to the southernmost point on the opposite shore;
- (n) Transquaking River upstream of a line from Alabaster Point running magnetic north to the opposite shore;
- (o) Nanticoke River upstream of a line from Long Point to Runaway Point;
- (p) Wicomico River upstream of the Whitehaven ferry crossing;
- (q) Pocomoke River upstream of the landing at Rehobeth;
- (r) Maryland tributaries of the Potomac River above the Route 301 bridge;
- (s) Wicomico River, a tributary of the Potomac River, upstream of a line from Mills Point in a westerly direction to the northernmost point at the entrance to Dolly Boarmans Creek;
- (t) Patuxent River upstream of the overhead power lines north of Gods Grace Point;
- (u) Swanson Creek, a tributary of the Patuxent River, upstream of a line from Teague Point to Chalk Point;
- (v) Patapsco River upstream of the Hanover Street crossing parallel to the Potee Street crossing;
- (w) Back River upstream of a line from Cuckhold Point to Rocky Point;
- (x) Middle River upstream of a line from Booby Point to Bowley Bar Point;
- (y) Seneca Creek upstream of a line from Bowley Bar Point to Lowen Point;
- (z) Gunpowder River upstream of a line from Weir Point to Rickett Point; and
- (aa) Bush River upstream of a line from Abbey Point to Sandy Point.

C. Striped Bass.

- (1) Notwithstanding COMAR 08.02.15.08—.11, an angler under the guidance of a licensee with a valid type NTT license in tidal waters of the State may not possess the species of fish known as striped bass.
- (2) Notwithstanding COMAR 08.02.15.03D(2), an angler under the guidance of a licensee with a valid type NTT license in tidal waters of the State may not catch or attempt to catch striped bass from waters of the State north of a line drawn from Abbey Point to Worton Point, from March 1 through May 31, inclusive.
- (3) An angler under the guidance of a licensee with a valid type NTT license in nontidal waters of the State may:
 - (a) Hook striped bass and immediately release the striped bass unharmed to the water from which the striped bass was taken; and
 - (b) Harvest striped bass from the areas set forth in Regulation .03 of this chapter.

D. Fees. The fees for a type NTT license are:

- (1) For a resident, \$50; and
- (2) For a nonresident, \$100.

E. License Allocations.

- (1) The number of type NTT licenses issued annually is limited to:
 - (a) 120 for residents; and
 - (b) 30 for nonresidents.
- (2) The Department shall maintain separate waiting lists of qualified resident and nonresident individuals in chronological order who have applied for a type NTT license.

(3) A type NTT license that is revoked or voluntarily relinquished to the Department may be reallocated to an individual who meets all qualifications for a type NTT license.

(4) The Department shall issue a type NTT license to the first individual on the appropriate waiting list described in §D(2) of this regulation when a license is available.

E. General. Except in Deep Creek Lake, the maximum number of individuals present on a vessel which is operated by a licensee may not exceed four, including the licensee.

08.02.18.05 Limited Fishing Guide License-Type L.

A. A type L limited fishing guide license, as authorized by Natural Resources Article, §4-210, Annotated Code of Maryland, authorizes the licensee to provide fishing guide services in all waters of the State.

B. Striped Bass.

(1) Notwithstanding COMAR 08.02.15.03D(2) and .09A(2), an angler under the guidance of a licensee with a valid type L license in tidal waters of the State may not catch or possess striped bass in the following areas:

- (a) Chesapeake Bay upstream of a line from Sandy Point on Spesutie Island to Turkey Point;
- (b) Elk River upstream of a line from Turkey Point to the State launching ramp at Pearce Creek;
- (c) Pond Creek upstream of a line connecting the two unnamed points at the entrance to the creek;
- (d) Sassafras River upstream of a line from Grove Point to Howell Point;
- (e) Still Pond Creek upstream of a line from Meeks Point to Rocky Point;
- (f) Worton Creek upstream of a line from Copeland's Point to Handys Point;
- (g) Fairlee Creek upstream of a line across the entrance of the creek;
- (h) Chester River upstream of a line from Spaniard Point to Nichols Point;
- (i) Corsica River, a tributary of the Chester River, upstream of a line from Spaniard Point to Holton Point;
- (j) Langford Creek, a tributary of the Chester River, upstream of a line from Nichols Point to Grays Inn Point;
- (k) Grays Inn Creek, a tributary of the Chester River, upstream from Grays Inn Point to Little Gum Point;
- (l) Choptank River upstream of the Dover Bridge on Route 331;
- (m) Blackwater River upstream of a line from the lower point of Snake Island to the southernmost point on the opposite shore;
- (n) Transquaking River upstream of a line from Alabaster Point running magnetic north to the opposite shore;
- (o) Nanticoke River upstream of a line from Long Point to Runaway Point;
- (p) Wicomico River upstream of the Whitehaven ferry crossing;
- (q) Pocomoke River upstream of the landing at Rehobeth;
- (r) Wicomico River, a tributary of the Potomac River, upstream of a line from Mills Point in a westerly direction to the northernmost point at the entrance to Dolly Boarmans Creek;

- (s) Patuxent River upstream of the overhead power lines north of Gods Grace Point;
 - (t) Swanson Creek, a tributary of the Patuxent River, upstream of a line from Teague Point to Chalk Point;
 - (u) Patapsco River upstream of the Hanover Street crossing parallel to the Potee Street crossing;
 - (v) Back River upstream of a line from Cuckhold Point to Rocky Point;
 - (w) Middle River upstream of a line from Booby Point to Bowley Bar Point;
 - (x) Seneca Creek upstream of a line from Bowley Bar Point to Lowen Point;
 - (y) Gunpowder River upstream of a line from Weir Point to Rickett Point; and
 - (z) Bush River upstream of a line from Abbey Point to Sandy Point.
- (2) Notwithstanding COMAR 08.02.15.08D(3) and .10A(2), an angler under the guidance of a licensee with a valid type L license in tidal waters of the State may not catch or possess striped bass in the Maryland tributaries of the Potomac River above the Route 301 bridge.
- (3) Notwithstanding COMAR 08.02.15.03D(2), an angler under the guidance of a licensee with a valid type L license in tidal waters of the State may not catch or attempt to catch striped bass from waters of the State north of a line drawn from Abbey Point to Worton Point, from March 1 through May 31, inclusive.
- (4) An angler under the guidance of a licensee with a valid type L license in nontidal waters of the State may:
- (a) Hook striped bass and immediately release the striped bass unharmed to the water from which the striped bass was taken; and
 - (b) Harvest striped bass from the areas set forth in Regulation .03 of this chapter.

C. Fees. The fees for a type L license are:

- (1) For a resident, \$50; and
- (2) For a nonresident, \$100.

D. General. A type L licensee may guide:

- (1) Anglers in no more than three boats or vessels that:
 - (a) Have one or two occupants per boat; and
 - (b) Are propelled by oars or paddles;
- (2) Ten anglers on foot; or
- (3) Any number of anglers who are participating in an educational or recreational program sponsored by a State, local, or municipal government and who are fishing from shore or on foot in the water.

08.02.18.06 General Provisions.

A. Licensee Requirements. In addition to a type NT, NTT, or L license, a licensee shall possess, as applicable, the following when engaged in fishing guide activities:

- (1) A valid angler's license in accordance with Natural Resources Article, §4-604, Annotated Code of Maryland;
- (2) A valid Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license or registration in accordance with Natural Resources Article, §4-745, Annotated Code of Maryland;
- (3) Any necessary stamps issued by the Department; and

(4) A valid license issued by the U. S. Coast Guard.

B. Safety Requirements. An applicant for a type NT, NTT, or L license shall provide a valid copy of the following documentation:

- (1) A cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certificate; and
- (2) An American Red Cross First Aid Certification or equivalent.

C. Angler Requirements. An individual guided by a licensee shall possess, as applicable:

- (1) A valid angler's license in accordance with Natural Resources Article, §4-604, Annotated Code of Maryland,
- (2) A valid Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license or registration in accordance with Natural Resources Article, §4-745, Annotated Code of Maryland; and
- (3) Any necessary stamps issued by the Department.

D. Dividing Lines. The dividing lines for tidal and nontidal waters are designated in COMAR 08.02.11.10.

E. Notwithstanding COMAR 08.02.15.12H, a licensee may not possess fish for personal use while providing fishing guide services.

F. Term. A type NT, NTT, or L license is valid from the date of issuance through December 31 of each year following the date of issuance.

G. Renewal. A licensee may renew a type NT, NTT, or L license for an additional 1 year term if the licensee:

- (1) Is otherwise entitled to hold the license;
- (2) Provides a valid copy of the documents set forth in §B of this regulation; and
- (3) Submits to the Department, by December 31:
 - (a) A renewal application on the form that the Department requires; and
 - (b) The applicable annual fee.

H. Reporting.

- (1) A licensee shall submit reports as required on forms provided by the Department.
- (2) Any person who is licensed to guide fishing parties on tidal waters shall accurately record their catch on a commercial charter boat captain's daily log and submit the log in accordance with COMAR 08.02.13.06.

Statutes:

Natural Resources §4-210. Fishing Guides

- (a) License required.- Except for a person employed to operate a vessel for a master fishing guide under § 4-701(p) or a person permitted to operate a charter boat under § 4-210.2, any person who desires to accept direct or indirect consideration for providing services as a fishing guide shall obtain a license.

(b) Operation of vessels carrying passengers for hire.- In addition to any license required by this section, a person may not furnish any service as a fishing guide that requires operating a boat or vessel as part of that service without first obtaining appropriate federal licenses to operate a vessel carrying passengers for hire.

(c) Possession of federal and State licenses.- A person who is required to be licensed under this section must have all appropriate federal and State licenses in the person's possession whenever performing services as a fishing guide.

(d) Monthly reports.- A commercial fishing guide shall be required to submit reports monthly on forms provided by the Department.

(e) First aid and safety requirements; failure to comply.-

(1) The Secretary may establish by regulation first aid and safety requirements with which all licensed fishing guides shall comply.

(2) The Department may suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue a license for failure to comply with the terms of the license.

(f) Tidal fish license; freshwater fishing guide license.- The Department may issue a tidal fish license under § 4-701 of this title and a freshwater fishing guide license under § 4-210.1 of this subtitle.

(g) Limited fishing guide license - Issuance.-

(1) The Department may issue a limited fishing guide license that is applicable in all waters of the State to allow a license holder to guide:

(i) Anglers in up to 3 boats or vessels that:

1. Have 1 or 2 occupants; and
2. Are propelled by oars or paddles; or

(ii) 1. Except as provided in item 2 of this item, up to 10 anglers fishing from shore or on foot in the water; or

2. Any number of anglers who are participating in an educational or recreational program sponsored by a State, local, or municipal government and who are fishing from shore or on foot in the water.

(2) A person may not accept any consideration for services as a fishing guide licensed under this subsection unless the person and all persons being guided possess, as applicable, an angler's license issued under § 4-604 of this title or a Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license issued under § 4-745 of this title.

(3) A recreational angler under the guidance of a limited fishing guide in tidal waters may not:

(i) Catch or possess the species of fish known as the striped bass or rockfish in the tidal waters designated in § 4-210.1 (f) of this subtitle; and

(ii) From March 1 through May 31, catch or attempt to catch the species of fish known as the striped bass or rockfish in spawning areas and rivers, including all waters north of a line from Abbey Point to Worton Point, including the Sassafra River, Bohemia River, Elk River, Northeast River, Susquehanna River, Susquehanna Flats, and the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal.

(h) Limited fishing guide license - Fee.-

(1) The fee for a limited fishing guide license under subsection (g) of this section shall be:

(i) For a resident, \$50; and

(ii) For a nonresident, \$100.

(2) All fees collected by the Department under this subsection shall be used for monitoring the freshwater fishery.

(3) The Department shall publicly report annually the amounts collected under this subsection.

§4-210.1. Freshwater Fishing Guides.

(a) Licensing.- A person providing fishing guide services for compensation to a person fishing in nontidal freshwater or areas of tidal water designated in subsection (f) of this section for game and freshwater fish shall obtain a freshwater fishing guide license.

(b) Application requirements.- An applicant for a license shall:

(1) Submit to the Department an application on the form that the Department requires;

(2) Pay to the Department an application fee of:

(i) \$20 for residents or \$50 for nonresidents to operate in nontidal freshwater; and

(ii) \$50 for residents or \$100 for nonresidents to operate in nontidal freshwater and the areas of tidal water designated in subsection (f) of this section; and

(3) Possess any necessary fishing licenses and stamps.

(c) Renewals.- Before a freshwater fishing guide license expires, the licensee may renew the license for an additional 1 year term. The licensee may renew a freshwater fishing guide permit if the licensee:

(1) Otherwise is entitled to hold the license;

(2) Submits to the Department a renewal application on the form that the Department requires; and

(3) Submits to the Department the annual license application fee under subsection (b) of this section.

(d) Fees; use; annual report.-

(1) All fees collected by the Department pursuant to this section shall be used for monitoring the freshwater fishery, including the capture and tagging of black bass in order to develop information and methods to sustain a healthy black bass population.

(2) The Department shall publicly report annually the amounts collected and the expenditures under this section.

(e) Authority.- Beginning January 1, 2000 the Department may issue a freshwater fishing guide license which shall be valid for not more than 1 year and shall expire on December 31 of each year following the date of issuance.

(f) Validity in designated tidal waters.- The freshwater fishing guide license is not valid in tidal waters except for the following designated areas:

- (1) In the upper Chesapeake Bay upstream of a line from Sandy Point to Turkey Point;
- (2) In the Elk River upstream of a line from Turkey Point to the State launching ramp at Pearce Creek;
- (3) In the Pond Creek upstream of a line connecting the two unnamed points at the entrance to the creek;
- (4) In the Sassafras River upstream of a line from Grove Point to Howell Point;
- (5) In the Still Pond Creek upstream of a line from Meeks Point to Rocky Point;
- (6) In the Worton Creek upstream of a line from the point at Copeland to Handys Point;
- (7) In the Fairlee Creek upstream of a line across the entrance of the creek;
- (8) (i) In the Chester River upstream of a line from Spaniard Point to Nichols Point;
- (ii) In the Corsica River, a tributary of the Chester River, upstream of a line from Spaniard Point to Holton Point;
- (iii) In the Langford Creek, a tributary of the Chester River, upstream of a line from Nichols Point to Grays Inn Point;
- (iv) In the Grays Inn Creek, a tributary of the Chester River upstream from Grays Inn Point to Little Gum Point;
- (9) In the Choptank River upstream of the Dover Bridge on Route 331;
- (10) In the Blackwater River upstream of a line from the lower point of Snake Island to the southernmost point on the opposite shore;
- (11) In the Transquaking River upstream of a line from Alabaster Point running magnetic north to the opposite shore;
- (12) In the Nanticoke River upstream of a line from Long Point to Runaway Point;
- (13) In the Wicomico River upstream of the Whitehaven ferry crossing;
- (14) In the Pocomoke River upstream of the landing at Rehobeth;
- (15) (i) In the Maryland tributaries of the Potomac River above the Route 301 bridge; and
- (ii) In the Wicomico River, a tributary of the Potomac River, upstream of a line from Mills Point in a westerly direction to the northernmost point at the entrance to Dolly Boarmans Creek;
- (16) (i) In the Patuxent River upstream of the overhead power lines north of Gods Grace Point;
- (ii) In the Swanson Creek, a tributary of the Patuxent River, upstream of a line from Teague Point to Chalk Point;
- (17) In the Patapsco River upstream of the Hanover Street crossing parallel to the Potee Street crossing;
- (18) In the Back River upstream of a line from Cuckhold Point to Rocky Point;
- (19) In the Middle River upstream of a line from Booby Point to Bowley Bar Point;
- (20) In the Seneca Creek upstream of a line from Bowley Bar Point to Lowen Point;
- (21) In the Gunpowder River upstream of a line from Weir Point to Rickett Point; and
- (22) In the Bush River upstream of a line from Abbey Point to Sandy Point.

(g) Striped bass.-

- (1) A recreational angler under the guidance of a freshwater fishing guide in tidal waters may not:
 - (i) Possess the species of fish known as striped bass or rockfish; or

(ii) From March 1 through May 31, catch or attempt to catch striped bass in spawning areas and rivers.

(2) For the purposes of item (1) (ii) of this subsection, spawning areas and rivers include everything north of a line from Abbey Point to Worton Point, including the Sassafras River, Bohemia River, Elk River, Northeast River, Susquehanna River, Susquehanna Flats, and the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal.

(h) Federal licenses.- An applicant for a freshwater fishing license that will be used in tidal waters must demonstrate to the Department that the applicant has obtained the appropriate federal licenses.

(i) Regulations.- The Department shall adopt regulations necessary to implement this section including regulations that:

(1) Prohibit a person from furnishing any service as a fishing guide that requires operating a boat or vessel as part of that service without complying with appropriate federal regulations governing the operation of a vessel carrying passengers for hire;

(2) Limit to 150 the number of freshwater fishing guide licenses that will be issued annually that allow a person to operate in nontidal freshwater and tidal water areas designated in subsection (f) of this section;

(3) Allocate not more than 20% to nonresidents of the 150 freshwater fishing guide licenses that allow a person to operate in nontidal freshwater and tidal areas designated in subsection (f) of this section; and

(4) Establish provisions for maintaining a waiting list for applicants in excess of the maximum number of fishing guide licenses that allow a person to operate in nontidal freshwater and tidal areas designated in subsection (f) of this section.

§4-210.2. Maryland Provisional Chesapeake Bay Charter Boat Permit.

(a) "Permit" defined.- In this section, "permit" means a Maryland Provisional Chesapeake Bay Charter Boat Permit.

(b) Established.- The Department shall establish a Maryland Provisional Chesapeake Bay Charter Boat Permit.

(c) Issuance.- The Department may issue a permit if the person:

(1) Is licensed by Virginia to operate a charter boat in its jurisdictional tidal waters; and

(2) Provides the Department with documentation of fishing activity for 2001 and 2002 based upon licensing and reporting requirements of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission.

(d) Validity.- A permit issued by the Department:

(1) Is valid only for an authorized person operating a vessel for charter fishing trips originating from the tidal waters of Virginia; and

(2) Is nontransferable.

(e) Possession of fishing guide license.- A person in possession of a permit is not required to possess a Maryland commercial fishing guide license under § 4-210 of this subtitle to operate a charter boat in tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland.

(f) Possession of other licenses.- A person operating a charter boat under the provisions of this section shall have all appropriate federal and State licenses and the required permit in possession whenever operating a charter boat.

(g) Penalties.- The holder of a permit issued under this section is subject to the penalties under Subtitle 12 of this title.

(h) Regulations.- The Department may adopt regulations necessary to implement this section.

§4-701. Tidal Fish License.

(a) This section applies to any person who is required under Subtitle 2, 7, 8, 9, or 10 of this title to be licensed to guide fishing parties or to catch, sell, buy, process, transport, export, or otherwise deal in fish caught in tidal waters.

(b)(4) A person may not guide fishing parties or catch, sell, buy, process, transport, export, or otherwise deal in fish caught in tidal waters unless licensed under this section.

(d)(2)(ii) The following annual fees for an authorization shall apply regardless of when the license is issued or an activity is authorized:

1. To provide services as:

A. A fishing guide in the tidal waters of Maryland - \$50 for a resident and \$100 for a nonresident; and

B. A master fishing guide, in addition to the fee under item A of this item - \$50 per vessel

(f) An applicant for a new license to provide services as a commercial fishing guide in tidal waters of the State shall supply as part of the initial application verifiable references to any federal license that is issued by the U.S. Coast Guard to operate a vessel carrying passengers for hire in the applicant's name, as a condition precedent to engaging as a commercial fishing guide in tidal waters.

(i)(4)(i) The The Department shall establish by regulation a procedure for a licensee, except a fishing guide licensee or a master fishing guide licensee, to voluntarily register the licensee's commercial fishing vessel number on the face of the license.

(p) Master fishing guide license.-

(1) This subsection applies only to a person who, on April 1, 1997:

(i) Held a valid fishing guide license; and

(ii) Either:

1. Owned two or more vessels used to carry passengers for fishing;

2. Owned or operated a federally licensed vessel of 50 tons or more that was used to carry passengers for fishing; or

3. Owned or operated a marina from which 10 or more vessels operate to carry passengers for fishing.

(2) A person who meets the requirements of paragraph (1) of this subsection may obtain an annual master fishing guide license by:

(i) Filing an application on a form provided by the Department;

(ii) Supplying with the application proofs of ownership of the required vessels; and

(iii) Paying the master fishing guide license fee set forth in subsection (d)(2)(ii)1 of this section.

(3) A person holding a master fishing guide license may:

(i) Employ other persons to guide fishing parties on vessels owned by the master fishing guide; and

(ii) Allow a person who holds a valid Coast Guard license to operate a vessel to carry passengers for fishing from the marina owned or operated by the master guide license holder authorized under paragraph (1)(ii)3 of this subsection as follows:

1. One person for 10 vessels;

2. Two persons for 11 to 20 vessels;

3. Three persons for 21 to 30 vessels;

4. Four persons for 31 to 40 vessels;

5. Five persons for 41 to 50 vessels; and

6. Six persons for 51 or more vessels.

(4) (i) The Department shall issue a number of copies of the master fishing guide license corresponding to the number of vessels owned or operated by the master fishing guide, with each copy bearing the registration number of one of the vessels.

(ii) The master fishing guide shall ensure that when a vessel is operated, the appropriate copy of the license is on board.

(5) If a master fishing guide employs another person to operate a vessel to carry passengers for fishing, for purposes of the license suspension criteria in subsection (1) of this section, the master fishing guide shall be held responsible for any violations committed by the person employed to operate the vessel.