

Meeting Minutes: Boat Registration & Outfitters Board Advisory Meeting

Date: August 13, 2026

Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

Board Members: Chris Hayes (Chair), Blake Jackson (Co-Chair), Ian McCreary, Gary Korell, and John Schwalbe.

Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD): Interim Director Eric Wiltanger, Alan Osterland Chief of Fisheries, Dave Zafft Deputy Chief of Fisheries, Kevin Gelwicks Assistant Fisheries Management Coordinator, Amanda Fry Public Information Officer, and Valerie Taro Executive Secretary Fish Division.

Public/Others: Representative Andrew Byron, TRW Committee Chairman, Wyoming State Board of Outfitters and Professional Guides staff Amanda McKee and Teal Wyckoff.

The meeting was called to order by Chris Hayes. The minutes from July 15th were reviewed by the board.

A boat registration update was given by Dave Zafft, Deputy Chief of Fisheries WGFD. The Department has 579 guided fishing boat registration stickers sold to 500 registrants with individual sportsman ID numbers as of June 30, 2026.

Dave said there have been 8,537 trips reported. A total of 171 registrants either have not reported or did not have any trips to report during the first period which ended June 30, 2026. Past due letters were sent to those individuals who did not report on August 10th.

Wyoming residents purchased 376 of the registration stickers sold with 22% of the non-resident sales coming from 4 neighboring states (Colorado, Idaho, Montana, and Utah).

There were 8,349 trips reported for streams or stream segments and 188 trips on standing waters. Trips were reported for 45 different waters, 21 rivers or river segments and 24 standing waters.

The following is the trip count reported by water:

Water Name/Segment	Number of Trips	Percentage of Trips
North Platte River - Gray Reef to Dave Johnston	2,837	34%
Bighorn/Wind River - Below Boysen Reservoir	1,522	18%
Snake River - Below Jackson Lake Dam	1,469	17%
Green River - Above Fontenelle Reservoir	574	7%
North Platte River - Above Seminoe	406	5%
Salt River	364	4%

New Fork River	344	4%
Green River - Below Fontenelle Reservoir	335	4%
North Platte River - Miracle Mile	222	3%
8,073		94%

Dave is working on creating an outfitter and guide list. Naming conventions have made compiling this list challenging. We are manually consolidating names to get a better idea of the actual number of Outfitters and guides. Dave mentioned the paper based reporting and inconsistent entry formats will need to be addressed through a proposed change to Chapter 71.

Dave will share these reports with the board and asked for any feedback regarding reporting structure and content. He also asked if the board would like to continue with the registration stickers and mandatory reporting. Chris and Alan agreed there is value in the data collection from registrations and reporting. Chris would like to see the Department continue collecting the data.

Chris asked when the board might know if the WGF Commission would like a formal meeting to review the recommendation before it is presented to TRW. Interim Director Eric Wiltanger stated Alan Osterland will reach out to the commissioners individually to check their preference.

Chris moved the discussion to the draft recommendation the board has prepared for TRW by first reading the draft prepared with the help of Ian McCreary. Chris then opened the meeting up to the board to provide feedback, comments or concerns on the draft recommendations.

There was discussion on the necessity of adding the requirement to provide proof of AIS decal on the watercraft. It was proposed instead to add the language “*requirement of outfitters and guides to abide by all state laws*”. Amanda suggested the board consider adding to the proposal “*the board would be granted the authority to promulgate rules and regulations within the statute*” to address concerns from TRW. Blake also questioned the need to define Outfitter as the permit holder and clarify that guides work for permit holders. Owner-operators would by default be considered outfitters because they hold the permits. Amanda offered to share the Wyoming State Board of Outfitters and Professional Guides language on defining outfitters-guide relationships for consideration when defining outfitters and guides in the draft recommendation.

Chris made a motion to accept the draft with the following recommendations and present it as the final draft to the TRW:

- Requirement to abide by state laws
- Authority to promulgate rules
- Clarification of permit holder roles (outfitters/guides)

Gary Korell seconded the motion.
Motion carried.

Chris called for a vote to present the draft recommendations to the Game and Fish Commission, if needed, and the TRW September 8th and 9th. All members voted in favor of Chairman Chris

Hays presenting and Co-Chair Blake Jackson assisting via Zoom. Ian McCreary and Gary Korell will also join the meeting to provide testimony.

The board talked about the structure of the current advisory board and what a stand-alone Fishing Outfitters and Guides Board would look like if it is created. Chris explained Title 33 addresses how new boards are established and the criteria of each board. The current advisory board is set on a four-year term. Blake shared his experience with similar boards from Idaho and Montana. Amanda shared the Idaho regulatory authority for outfitting and guiding operations were quite extensive.

The discussion highlighted challenges the board may face with getting legislation passed. Representative Byron, chairman of the TRW, stated there are key differences between fishing and hunting regulations, and the boards need to focus on professional and safety standards when presenting the draft recommendation for a stand-alone Fishing Outfitters and Guides board to the TRW committee in September.

Chris wrapped up the meeting by stating if he felt after reviewing documents provided by Amanda, another meeting is needed, he will call the board to meet prior to September 8th.

Call to public for questions and input:

No public comments or questions.

Meeting Adjourned: Chris Hayes moved to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Blake Jackson.

Meeting adjourned.

Action Items:

- Amanda McKee will share the Wyoming State Board of Outfitters and Professional Guides statute and proposed new rule language for use in the draft recommendation.
- Chris Hayes will make the updates discussed during the meeting.
- Alan Osterland will contact the WGF Commission individually to ask how they would like to review the recommendation of the advisory board.
- Chris Hayes will attend the TRW meeting in person to present the board recommendation on September 8th. Blake Jackson, Gary Korrel and Ian McCreary will attend the meeting virtually to offer testimony.
- Dave Zafft requested feedback on the reports and reporting structure he presented to the board and asked if there was any additional information needed.