

STATEMENT OF REASONS

WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

CHAPTER 71

COMMERCIALLY GUIDED FISHING BOATS

W.S. § 23-3-206(c) directs and empowers the Commission to establish rules governing the registration and means of tracking the number of commercially guided fishing boats using Wyoming waters. W.S. § 23-3-206(c) directs the Commission to require registration and payment of an annual fee for each commercially guided fishing boat beginning January 1, 2026 and that registration stickers be issued for commercially guided fishing boats and trailers.

This is a new regulation promulgated in response to the Sixty-Eighth Legislature of the State of Wyoming 2025 General Session House Enrolled Act No. 31.

Section 1 provides the Commission with the authority to promulgate these rules.

Section 2 provides an effective date of January 1, 2026 as directed by W.S. § 23-3-206.

Section 3 provides definitions specific to this regulation which shall be set forth in W.S. § 23-3-206 and 41-13-101. The definition of "operate" set forth in W.S. § 23-3-206 is specifically incorporated by reference for clarity as the same term is defined differently in § 41-13-101. The definition of "registrant" is defined as the owner of a commercially guided fishing boat that has an unexpired commercially guided fishing boat registration. The definition of "registration sticker" is defined for clarity and to differentiate the registration sticker from a motorized watercraft registration or aquatic invasive species decal (sticker).

Section 4 requires the registration of commercially guided fishing boats and establishes a registration fee commensurate with the annual license fee that is charged by the Wyoming State Board of Outfitters and Professional Guides for a hunting outfitter license. The issuance of a registration number and two (2) registration stickers is described in accordance with W.S. § 23-3-206. Regulations specify the format, size and placement of registration numbers and the placement of registration stickers on boats and trailers. Proof of registration requirements are provided and the transfer of registrations to new watercraft and issuance of duplicate registration stickers are addressed.

Section 5 describes record keeping requirements of commercially guided fishing boat owners. The records are necessary to track the number of commercially guided fishing boats using Wyoming waters. Rules indicate how and when records may be inspected by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and reporting deadlines are established.

Section 6 provides reasons for revocation of a commercially guided fishing boat registration and references the process for contesting a revocation.