

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0005

Fishing outfitters and guides-registration of fishing boats.

Sponsored by: Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to game and fish; authorizing the Wyoming  
2 game and fish commission to regulate commercially guided  
3 fishing boats; providing for registration of commercially  
4 guided fishing boats, vehicles and trailers operated by  
5 outfitters and professional fishing guides; providing an  
6 exception; creating an advisory board; specifying duties of  
7 the advisory board; requiring a report; providing  
8 definitions; providing rulemaking authority; and providing  
9 for an effective date.

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11 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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13 **Section 1.** W.S. 23-3-206 is created to read:

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1           **23-3-206. Commercially guided fishing boats;**  
2 **regulatory authority; advisory board; definitions.**

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4           (a) To protect the quality of the fishing experience,  
5 the fishery and other aquatic resources and species in this  
6 state, the commission may set limits on or otherwise  
7 regulate the number of commercially guided fishing boats  
8 allowed to launch into or use any river or lake or section  
9 thereof in this state in a lawful ratio that prioritizes  
10 Wyoming resident professional guides and outfitters. This  
11 subsection shall not apply to a Wyoming resident if that  
12 person uses a city, town, county or state boat ramp or  
13 other access point to launch a commercially guided fishing  
14 boat to guide fishermen if the Wyoming resident is guiding  
15 the fishermen to a location where the lands are owned or  
16 leased by the Wyoming resident or the Wyoming resident's  
17 immediate family member.

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19           (b) There is created a commercially guided fishing  
20 boats advisory board. The board shall consist of seven (7)  
21 members appointed by the commission. One (1) member shall  
22 be appointed from each appointment district pursuant to  
23 W.S. 9-1-218 and at least two (2) members appointed shall

1 be Wyoming owned drift boat guide business owners. Members  
2 shall serve a four (4) year term. The commission may remove  
3 any member of the board, subject to W.S. 9-1-202. Vacancies  
4 of the board shall be filled by appointment for the  
5 unexpired term. The board shall provide recommendations to  
6 the commission for promulgating rules under subsection (c)  
7 of this section.

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9 (c) The commission may promulgate rules governing the  
10 registration and means of tracking the number of  
11 commercially guided fishing boats launching into or using  
12 any river or lake or section thereof. In addition to  
13 satisfying the requirements of the Wyoming Administrative  
14 Procedure Act, the commission shall hold public meetings in  
15 each county in which its rules apply. The rules shall  
16 require registration and payment of an annual fee for each  
17 commercially guided fishing boat and vehicle or trailer  
18 that is operated by an outfitter or professional fishing  
19 guide in any river or lake or section thereof for which the  
20 commission has set limits or other regulations. The annual  
21 fee established under this subsection may be different for  
22 resident and nonresident professional fishing guides or  
23 outfitters and shall be in a ratio similar to the fee ratio

1 for twelve (12) month resident fishing licenses and twelve  
2 (12) month nonresident fishing licenses under W.S.  
3 23-2-201(d). A registration sticker shall be displayed on  
4 each commercially guided fishing boat and on each vehicle  
5 or trailer registered under this subsection.

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7 (d) As used in this section:

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9 (i) "Commercially guided fishing boat" means a  
10 fishing boat that is operated by an outfitter or  
11 professional fishing guide to provide fishing guide  
12 services for financial gain;

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14 (ii) "Fishing guide services" means for hire or  
15 remuneration, accompanying and providing assistance to a  
16 person on a river or lake or section thereof for the  
17 purposes of fishing;

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19 (iii) "Operate" means to navigate or otherwise  
20 use a commercially guided fishing boat;

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22 (iv) "Outfitter" or "professional fishing guide"  
23 means a person who advertises or holds himself out to the

1 public for hire for the purpose of financial gain to  
2 provide fishing guide services, excluding any person who  
3 furnishes fishing equipment or boats to a person for  
4 exclusively personal and temporary use. "Outfitter" or  
5 "professional fishing guide" includes any person requiring  
6 the payment of fees or remuneration for providing personal  
7 services on a river or lake or section thereof for the  
8 purposes of fishing.

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10 **Section 2.** Not later than November 1, 2025, the game  
11 and fish commission and the commercially guided fishing  
12 boats advisory board created in section 1 of this act shall  
13 make recommendations to the joint travel, recreation,  
14 wildlife and cultural resources interim committee on the  
15 creation of a new board or amendment to an existing board  
16 to carry out the duties specified in section 1 of this act.

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18 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2025.

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(END)