

FISCAL NOTE

This bill allows the Game and Fish Commission (Commission) to set limits on the number of commercially guided fishing boats allowed to launch into any section of river or lake in Wyoming. If the Commission establishes launch limits, it must assess an annual fee for registration of commercially guided fishing boats and vehicles or trailers operated by the commercial fishing guide.

	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
NON-ADMINISTRATIVE IMPACT			
Anticipated Expenditure increase			
GAME & FISH FUND	\$431,800	\$215,750	\$215,750

Source of expenditure increase:

The Game and Fish Department (Department) indicates additional personnel, supplies, equipment, and programming will be required to regulate the number of commercially guided fishing boats for each major drainage area over which the Commission has jurisdiction, resulting in an expenditure increase from the Game and Fish Fund.

Assumptions:

The Department assumes surveys will be required to determine the percent of commercially guided fishing boats to the total number of watercraft per stretch of river. Personnel will set-up data-gathering camera equipment on multiple stretches of river within the major drainage areas to review, analyze, and document the data collected. If the Commission determines that launch limits of commercially guided fishing boats warrant limitation, public meetings will be held in the major drainage area to gather public comment. Personnel will monitor the major drainage areas to enforce that commercially guided boats, vehicles and trailers are registered, have a sticker, and have a valid boat launch permit.

The Department estimates one additional full-time employee and four additional seasonal employees will be hired, and supplies, equipment and vehicles required to carry out the ongoing tasks will be purchased. One (1) program administrator (BAPM09), four (4) four-month fisheries technicians (HSSL05), five computers, four cell phones, four drift boats, four trucks, data collection equipment, and uniform allowances will be required. Personnel (0100 series) costs are estimated at \$176,561 per year. Support services (0200 series) costs for supplies and equipment, in-state travel, vehicle operating and maintenance, and data services are estimated at \$36,480 per year, plus an additional \$182,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2026 for data gathering cameras, three-quarter ton trucks, and drift boats. Central data services (0400 series) costs for four cell phones are estimated at \$2,208 per year, plus an additional \$6,750 in FY 2026 for computers. Contractual Services (0900 series) costs are estimated at \$500 per year for printing of stickers.

Programming to allocate launch permits will require the establishment of an online portal to allow for application of permits, with the ability to create a reusable user identification. The system must accept both a first-come, first-served allocation model and a pool of applicants for a later draw model. The system will require functionality to report draw results to customers, the ability for customers

Fishing outfitters and guides-registration
of fishing boats.

25LSO-0215, 1.0

to modify and/or withdraw from a random draw. Additionally, the system will require business rules to provide various limits for permits by impacted stretches of river. If permits are renewable without drawing, the system will need a mechanism to allow for this. The system will need the ability to generate public reports showing ownership of launch permits. Development of extensive reporting functionality as well as comprehensive testing prior to implementation will be necessary. Application development is estimated at 450 hours at \$60.66 per hour for a total one-time cost of \$27,300 in FY 2026.

The expenditure increase reflected above could be considered an administrative cost. However, for simplicity and to follow consistent practice on legislation of this type, it is included on the fiscal note.

Source of revenue increase:

The estimated revenue increase, in the form of annual fees issued for commercially guided fishing boat, vehicle, and trailer registrations to the Game and Fish Fund is indeterminable.

Assumptions:

The Commission will set launch limits and establish registration and permit fees to implement the bill. However, the fees have not been determined by the Commission and the number of commercial fishing boats, vehicles, and trailers is unknown.

Prepared by: Matthew Willmarth, LSO Phone: 777-7881
(Information provided by Meredith Wood, Game and Fish Department, 777-4618)

HB0005