



Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Conserving Wildlife, Serving People

Governor Mark Gordon • Interim Director Eric Wiltanger

Commissioners

Mark Jolovich President

Rusty Bell, Vice President

Bill Mai

Carlisle Haskell

Ashlee Lundvall

John Masterson

Kenneth D. Roberts

August 24, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resources Committee

SUBJECT: Wyoming fishing outfitters and guides update

Background: Fishing outfitters and guides help Wyoming residents and visitors fish Wyoming's waters. Anglers and other water users were concerned about overcrowding on waters due to the number of guided trips, but there was neither an existing regulatory mechanism nor information about the scope of the problem.

In 2025, Wyoming state legislature passed legislation ([HB0005](#)) to address these concerns. This legislation 1) gave the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission (Commission) authority to limit the number of guided fishing boats allowed to launch into or use any river or lake or section in the state, 2) gave the Commission authority to govern registration and means of tracking of commercially guided fishing boats, and 3) created a commercially guided fishing boat advisory board ([W.S. § 23-3-206](#)). Statute charged the advisory board with determining whether it should exist as a standalone board or exist within the Wyoming State Board of Outfitters and Professional Guides by November 1, 2025, but an extension was granted to collect additional information. The Commission promulgated regulations that direct the registration and reporting requirements ([Chapter 71](#)).

The Commission created the Fishing Outfitter and Guides Advisory Board (Board) to advise them on all matters related to fishing outfitting and guides, including the statutory charge outlined above. The Board will dissolve and turn into the advisory board directed by statute, but legislation will need to be modified to do so.

Registration and tracking: As of January 1, 2026, outfitters and guides that are commercially guiding angling or bowfishing on all waters must purchase a \$325 registration. This cost is the same for residents and nonresidents. Registration includes 2 stickers (one for the boat, the other for the trailer) and a vehicle identification slip to be placed on the vehicle's dashboard. The registration is valid for the calendar year. Guides must collect and report records of their trips. Reports for January 1 – June 30 were due by July 15, 2026.

A total of 579 registration stickers were sold to 500 individual registrants through June 30, 2026. Registrants can be outfitters, individual guides, or guides working for multiple outfitters. Most registrants purchased a single registration sticker (94%), although individuals purchased up to 17 stickers. Most registrants were Wyoming residents (75%); 22% were from Colorado, Idaho, Utah, and Montana.

Fishing outfitters and guides | August 24, 2026 |

Registrants reported 8,537 trips. Reported trips were taken using 165 outfitters and 413 fishing guides. Two-thirds of registrants reported taking at least one trip between January 1 and June 30, 2026; the remaining registrants (34%) either have not reported or did not take a trip. Nearly all trips (98%) occurred on streams or stream segments. Trips primarily (96%) occurred on 9 streams or stream segments, with North Platte River - Gray Reef to Dave Johnston having the most trips (34%).

Recommendations: The Board will provide its recommendations to the Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resources Committee at its September meeting on the creation of a new board or amendment to be included in the existing Wyoming Board of Outfitters and Professional Guides legislation.