



Uniting Citizens to Conserve, Protect and Enhance Michigan's Natural Resources and Outdoor Heritage  
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## **HB 5558, 5559 and 5560: Commercial Guiding Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

**Q: What is the application fee for a guiding license?**

A: \$150 for a Michigan resident and \$300 for a non-resident. Guides using state boating access sites are required to apply for additional \$300 permit which is good for 3 years.

**Q: What other requirements must a guide have before getting a guiding license?**

A: All commercial guides must possess a valid base or fishing license, CPR and first aid training certificate, a state identification and must not have been convicted of any felony or certain fish and game violations in the past three years.

**Q: How long is the license active?**

A: The license is active for three years.

**Q: Are licensed commercial guides required to report any data?**

A: Yes, licensed commercial guides are required to report the counties that they guided, the species they pursued, the number of clients they hosted, the number of game/fish harvested (or caught and released), bodies of water guided on for fishing guides any other biological information that the department requests.

**Q: What exemptions are there for this license?**

A: Commercial hunting/fishing guide does not include any of the following:

- Individuals who are voluntarily sharing expenses
- Private land owners assisting an individual in the pursuing or taking of game or fish on that private land
- Hunting and game preserve owners and employees
- Individuals who have been issued nuisance or damage control permits
- Employee or members of a non-profit organization during events with the intent of recruiting, retaining or reactivating hunters/anglers.
- An individual under the age of 18 if they are working under the supervision of a licensed commercial hunting guide

**Q: Is this for certain species or all?**

**A:** All, this is intended to be a simple structure for all commercial guiding activity.

**Q: What are the penalties in place for those that violate license provisions?**

**A:** Violations are as follows:

- Failure to report monthly data for fishing guides. (Hunting guides report annually and failure to do so is subject to license revocation on first offense)
  - First offense: \$100 fine
  - Second offense: \$200 fine
  - Third offense: \$300 fine
  - Fourth offense: License revoked
- Operating without a license or on commercial forestland
  - First offense: Not more than \$500 fine
  - Second offense: Not more than \$1000 fine
- Providing false information
  - Not more than \$500 fine
- The department may consider the process for revocation if a person is ineligible for application of a license under the convictions listed further in this document.

**Q: Are licensed commercial guides eligible to operate on commercial forestland?**

**A:** No, current law prohibits commercial guiding on commercial forestland. This simply clarifies and provides enforceability of the existing law.

**Q: Which fish and game violations would make an individual ineligible for guiding?**

**A:** Convictions of:

- Obstructing or interfering in the lawful taking of game or fish(hunter/angler harassment)
- Unlawful taking of game or fish
- Illegal transport of carcasses
- charter boat and livery statute (Part 445)
- Buying or selling of game or fish
- All felonies
- Possession or release of invasive species, illegal sturgeon

**Q: Is there a cap or required distribution of guides?**

**A:** No. The Natural Resources Commission can regulate the manner and method of take.