

# Commercial Guiding

## Quick Hits:

- Currently, Michigan has little regulation for inland hunting and fishing guides.
- There is nothing stopping someone from guiding who has been convicted of egregious wildlife violations .
- Data reporting from guides would be required to better manage our natural resources.

Commercial guiding regulation has been a priority of the conservation community for almost a decade now, and MUCC membership first saw the need for reform in the late 1990s.

Currently, Michigan's commercial guiding industry is **largely unregulated**. A regulatory framework would prevent poachers and other bad actors from posing as legitimate guides

while providing new critical tools to law enforcement and biologists alike.

During the 2021-2022 legislative session, HB 5358-5360 **received near unanimous support** from the conservation community but ultimately got no further than to the house floor with a light legislative schedule in an election year.

Data gathering should be a critical part of any legislative

package. Guides are on the water and in the field more than anyone and sometimes host hundreds of clients a year.

This package of bills **requires a minimum requirement of entry** to protect Michigan's rich outdoor heritage and the important economic contributions of Michigan's hunting and fishing guides.

## Advocates



## 2022 Version:

- \$150 three-year registration fee for residents; \$300 for non-residents.
- Existing charter captains operating with a US Coast Guard license are exempt from the registration fee.
- Data reporting is required, similar to what is required currently on the Great Lakes and connecting waterways.
- All commercial guides must possess: a valid base hunting (\$11) or fishing license (\$26); must be CPR and first aid certified, and have a state identification card or driver's license.
- A person must not have been convicted of any felony or certain fish and game violations in the past three years.
- Common sense exemptions respect private landowners and hunting and angling recruitment efforts.