

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0017

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  
6 definitions; providing rulemaking authority; and providing  
7 for an effective date.

8

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

10

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

12

13 **23-3-206. Commercially guided fishing boats;**  
14 **regulatory authority; definitions.**

15

1           (a) To protect the quality of the fishing experience,  
2 the fishery and other aquatic resources and species in this  
3 state, the commission may set limits on the number of  
4 commercially guided fishing boats allowed to launch into  
5 any river or lake or section thereof.

6  
7           (b) In the event that the commission sets limits on  
8 the number of commercially guided fishing boats allowed to  
9 launch into any river or lake or section thereof, the  
10 commission shall promulgate rules governing the  
11 registration and means of tracking the number of  
12 commercially guided fishing boats launching into any river  
13 or lake or section thereof. In addition to requirements  
14 under the Administrative Procedure Act, the commission  
15 shall hold public meetings in each community in which the  
16 rules apply. The rules shall require registration and  
17 payment of an annual fee for each commercially guided  
18 fishing boat and vehicle or trailer that is operated by an  
19 outfitter or professional fishing guide and that is  
20 operated during any period of time during a year in any  
21 river or lake or section thereof for which the commission  
22 has set limits. A registration sticker shall be displayed

1 on each commercially guided fishing boat and on each  
2 vehicle or trailer registered under this subsection.

3

4 (c) As used in this section:

5

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

10

11 (ii) "Fishing guide services" means for hire or  
12 remuneration, accompanying and providing assistance to a  
13 person on a river or lake for the purposes of fishing;

14

15 (iii) "Operate" means to navigate or otherwise  
16 use a watercraft;

17

18 (iv) "Outfitter" or "professional fishing guide"  
19 means a person who advertises or holds himself out to the  
20 public for hire for the purpose of financial gain to  
21 provide fishing guide services, excluding any person who  
22 furnishes fishing equipment to a person for exclusively  
23 personal and temporary use. "Outfitter" or "professional

1 fishing guide" includes any person requiring the payment of  
2 dues or remuneration for providing personal services on a  
3 river or lake for the purposes of fishing.

4

5 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2024.

6

7

(END)