



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Dear Washington Fishing Guides,

It's that time again, time to renew your fishing guide license! As we move into a new license year, we wanted to make you aware of a new initiative of interest to fishing guides in Washington State.

This past summer, the Fish & Wildlife Commission adopted rules requiring guides to fill out logbooks to record data on their fishing activity. This new reporting system will allow the agency to collect additional biological data, but more importantly, it will allow us to collect data on industry trends. This data will help build a more accurate picture of the demographics of the industry, the geographic distribution of guide activity in Washington State and the contribution guides have on local economies. It will also allow us to increase our communications around the role the industry plays in promoting tourism, conservation and the recruitment of new anglers into the sport.

The agency has solicited input from guides on a logbook system over the course of the last year, through public meetings and through public comment during the Commission's rulemaking process. That said, since this will be a new system for both guides and the agency, it is important to Director Susewind and the Commission that we get further input from guides on implementation of this new rule. With that in mind, the agency established a Fishing Guide Advisory Committee this fall that has diverse representation from full time and part time guides, gear guides and fly guides from throughout the state. The group has been meeting monthly to help develop and test reporting tools and provide feedback to the agency on how best to get the word out about this new requirement.

To make reporting as easy as possible, the agency has developed three reporting tools for guides to choose from: a smartphone app, a web application, and a paper logbook. All three of the reporting tools will ask for the same basic information, based on WAC 220-352-245 and will be effective statewide beginning January 1, 2020. More information on this new rule and the three reporting tools will be made available on the agency's website at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/guide-logbook>.

We hope this initiative along with the newly formed Fishing Guide Advisory Committee will allow us to strengthen our communication with the guide industry in Washington State. In order to improve our communications with you, we are developing a commercial fishing guide distribution list and are asking for emails in addition to mailing address at time of license renewal. ***Please provide (write-in) an email at the top of the license renewal form.***

If you would like more information on the Fishing Guide Advisory Committee or would like to help beta test the new reporting application, please reach out to Raquel Crosier at Raquel.Crosier@dfw.wa.gov. Thanks for your attention and for your partnership.

Sincerely,

Kelly Cunningham
Fish Program Director