

# An Overview of Requirements for Charter Captains



## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

### INSURANCE:

Licensed charter boat fishing guides and mothership vessels must have proof of liability insurance in their possession while on the water and make it available for inspection by LDWF agents. Insurance must be:

- In their name (charter boat fishing guides only)
- Currently in force
- Written by a company with at least an A- rating in the latest A.M. Best's Key Rating Guide
- Of a commercial nature
- Not associated with a primary residence
- At least \$300,000 in coverage per occurrence.

### U.S. COAST GUARD SAFETY REQUIREMENTS:

- Uninspected Passenger Vessel Requirements (vessels at least 100 tons, carrying no more than 12 passengers OR less than 100 tons, carrying no more than 6 passengers)
- Small Passenger Vessel Requirements (vessels less than 100 tons, carrying more than 6 passengers)

[https://www.dco.uscg.mil/nmc/charter\\_boat\\_captain/](https://www.dco.uscg.mil/nmc/charter_boat_captain/)

### SEA TURTLE HANDLING/RELEASE REQUIREMENTS:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/resources-fishing/fishing-tips-protect-sea-turtles-and-marine-mammals>

## RESOURCES

### LOUISIANA CHARTER/FOR-HIRE REGULATIONS:

<https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/subhome/for-hire-charter>

### LOUISIANA RECREATIONAL FISHING REGULATIONS:

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/recreational-fishing>

### FEDERAL REGULATIONS:

[http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable\\_fisheries/gulf\\_fisheries/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/gulf_fisheries/index.html)

## LICENSES AND PERMITS

### BASIC REQUIREMENTS:

- U.S. Coast Guard Captain's License; requirements include:
  - Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC)
  - Physical exam within one year of application
  - Drug testing within six months of application
  - CPR and first aid certification within one year of application
- Louisiana Charter Boat Fishing Guide License
- Louisiana Recreational Fishing License
- Recreational Offshore Landing Permit (select Charter permit)
- Local parish or city business license
- Freshwater Charter Captains are required to show proof of insurance and obtain a LDWF Louisiana Charter Boat Fishing Guide License in order to operate

### SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Gulf of Mexico Charter/Headboat Coastal Migratory Pelagics Permit (for-hire fishing offshore for mackerels, cobia)
- Gulf of Mexico Charter/Headboat Reef Fish Permit (for-hire fishing offshore for reef fish)
- Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Charter/Headboat Permit (for-hire fishing offshore for tunas, sharks, swordfish, and billfish)

