

**MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS**

Title 40: Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks

Part 3. Fisheries

Part 3, Chapter 4. Freshwater Fishing Guides and Outfitters.

RULE 4.1 DEFINITIONS.

Pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §49-4-39, the following terms, when used in these rules, shall have the following meanings:

- A. "Boat" means a vessel used by a guide or outfitter for taking paying customers on recreational freshwater fishing excursions.
- B. "Guide" means a person who advises or shows the way to others on a boat.
- C. "Outfitter" means an establishment that sells freshwater fishing services.
- D. "Captain" or "skipper" means a person who is at the helm, controls or steering of a boat.
- E. "Boat mate" and "crew" mean one or more employees assisting the guide, outfitter, captain or skipper on a boat.
- F. "Freshwater," for the purposes of this rule, means all waters of the State of Mississippi, lying north of Interstate 10, including, but not limited to, streams, lakes creeks, rivers bayous, or other bodies of water considered to be public waters and waterways.

History: Promulgated May 2023.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. §49-1-29, §49-4-4, and §49-4-39

RULE 4.2 REGULATIONS REGARDING FRESHWATER GUIDES AND OUTFITTERS.

The following rules and regulations shall apply to freshwater fishing guides and outfitters:

A. Guide License. A valid freshwater fishing guide license is required for any person that provides freshwater fishing guide services on any public waters in the state. Guide Licenses are valid one-year from date of purchase.

1. Resident Guide License. Any resident of the State of Mississippi wishing to provide professional freshwater fishing guide services must obtain a resident guide license. The price of a Resident Guide License is Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00). Requirements for a resident guide license are:

a. Proof of residency (domicile) in the State of Mississippi for one (1) year prior to the application for a resident guide license. *See*, 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 1, Rule 8.3.D.2, for additional information regarding proof of residency/domicile.

b. A valid Mississippi Resident Sportsman's hunting and fishing license, unless the applicant is otherwise exempt, by law, from having to have a hunting/fishing license due to age or disability. Persons claiming such an exemption shall provide proof of his or her exempt status.

2. Nonresident Guide License.

a. Any nonresident living outside the State of Mississippi wishing to provide professional freshwater fishing guide services in Mississippi, must obtain a nonresident guide license. The price of a Nonresident Guide License is Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00).

b. A valid annual non-resident fishing license is required to purchase a non-resident freshwater fishing guide license.

B. Additional requirements for freshwater fishing guides/outfitters.

1. Proof of certified CPR and First Aid training from an American Red Cross or American Heart Association-certified trainer or course.

2. Certification of completion of an approved boater education course.

3. A valid United States Coast Guard Captain's license may be provided in lieu of proof of CPR/First Aid training, and boater education course certification.

C. Freshwater fishing guide licenses are unique to the license-holder and are not transferable.

D. A violation of this rule shall be a Class II violation, and upon conviction, may be punished as provided in Miss. Code Ann. §49-7-143.

Rule 4.3 BOAT LICENSE/DECAL

A. Boat License and Boat Decals. In addition to the requirement that each guide must have a Guide License, each boat that will be used for freshwater guide services by the guide or an outfitter service, must possess a valid boat license and two (2) decals that shall be displayed conspicuously on each side of the vessel toward the bow. Licenses shall be valid one (1) calendar year from date of purchase.

B. The cost of the annual boat license and decals shall be Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00).

C. Requirements for licensing.

1. Any vessel used for freshwater guide services must be registered as a guide services boat with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

2. The guide or outfitter service must present a valid boat registration card and driver's license to purchase a boat license.

3. Any guide or outfitter service seeking to purchase a boat license must present proof of liability insurance reflecting coverage for general liability in an amount not less than \$100,000.

4. The boat license decals shall be placed on both sides of the forward half of the vessel, in such a position as to be clearly visible by other boats on the water.

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