



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.  
Secretary of Natural Resources

### *Marine Resources Commission*

2600 Washington Avenue  
Third Floor  
Newport News, Virginia 23607

Steven G. Bowman  
Commissioner

#### All Interested Parties:

On December 16, 2008, the Commission finalized Regulation 4 VAC 20-1180-10 Et. Seq., "Pertaining to Fishing Guide Licenses". The 2009 Class A or Class B Fishing Guide License sales will begin on December 22, 2008 at the VMRC Operations Station, 30 Jefferson Avenue, Newport News, VA 23607 (Phone: 757-247-2265). The 2009 Fishing Guide Reciprocity Permit issuances will also begin on the same date and at the same location. A summary of the different types of licenses/permits and required documentation are listed below.

The requirements for purchase of the charter/head boat vessel license have not changed. The owner is still required to submit the U. S. Coast Guard vessel documentation to purchase the charter/head boat vessel license(s).

1) **The Class A Fishing Guide License** will be sold only to those individuals meeting certain criteria, and only this license will be considered for reciprocity with the Maryland Fishing Guide License. A new license reciprocity agreement is now being discussed with the MD DNR and will be published on our website, when approved. The license is \$100.00 per calendar year. You must purchase the license each year to remain eligible. If you purchase the Fishing Guide License at the same time as your charter/head boat license(s), the cost of one charter/head boat license will be reduced by \$100.00. You must provide a copy of your U. S. Coast Guard license to carry passengers for hire (Captain's License) at the time of application. For new applicants (no existing MRC ID#), additional information, such as a social security number and contact information, will be required. The qualifying criteria and additional documentation for a Class A Fishing Guide License is listed at the end of this letter.

2) **The Class B Fishing Guide License** will be sold to any U. S. Coast Guard licensed captain, but will only be valid in Virginia waters under the jurisdiction of the Commission. The license is \$100.00 per calendar year. If you purchase the Fishing Guide License at the same time as your charter/head boat license(s), the cost of one charter/head boat license will be reduced by \$100.00. You must provide a copy of your U. S. Coast Guard license to carry passengers for hire (Captain's License) at the time of application. For new applicants (no existing MRC ID#), additional information, such as a social security number and contact information, will be required.

3) **The Fishing Guide Reciprocity Permit** will be issued only to holders of the Maryland Fishing Guide License that wish to fish in Virginia waters operating under the pending Chesapeake Bay License Reciprocity Agreement. This permit is available at no cost. You must provide a copy of your Maryland Fishing Guide License and a copy of your U.S. Coast Guard license to carry passengers for hire (Captain's License) at the time of application. For new

*An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat*

Web Address: [www.mrc.virginia.gov](http://www.mrc.virginia.gov)

(Over)

Telephone (757) 247-2200 (757) 247-2292 V/TDD Information and Emergency Hotline 1-800-541-4646 V/TDD

applicants (no existing MRC ID#), additional information, such as a social security number and contact information, will be required.

Beginning December 22, 2008, mail-in forms for the “Transfer of a Class A Fishing Guide License”, the “Waiting List for a Class A Fishing Guide License”, and “New Applicants for a Fishing Guide License/Permit” will be available at <http://www.mrc.virginia.gov/forms/index.shtm> or at the VMRC Main Office.

A temporary eligibility transfer of a Class A Fishing Guide License is only valid from the date of transfer to the end of the license year (December 31). Once the transfer expires, the original licensee regains his eligibility. The person receiving the eligibility transfer must purchase their own Class A License. The license of the original licensee must be surrendered for the transfer to be approved. A transfer may take up to 2 weeks to process.

A permanent eligibility transfer of a Class A Fishing Guide License is permanent, as long as the person receiving the transfer continues to purchase the Class A Fishing Guide License each year. The original licensee loses his eligibility to purchase the Class A Fishing Guide License at the time of the transfer. The license of the original licensee must be surrendered for the transfer to be approved. A transfer may take up to 2 weeks to process.

**The limited entry criteria for a Class A Fishing Guide License is as follows:**

- 1) The applicant shall have purchased, as the licensee, a 2008 Virginia charter boat or head boat license before June 25, 2008; **or**
- 2) The applicant shall have purchase, as the licensee, a 2006 and 2007 Virginia charter boat or head boat license; **or**
- 3) The applicant can document that he has served as captain of a vessel for at least 30 days from January 1, 2006 through June 24, 2008, operating in Virginia waters, that was licensed as a Virginia charter boat or head boat and provides a certificate of insurance listing him as the captain of a Virginia charter boat or head boat or federal tax form W-2 or 1099 listing his income as the captain of a Virginia charter boat or head boat, during the period January 1, 2006 through June 24, 2008. An additional form of documentation of the 30-day service as captain may include evidence that the applicant is currently enrolled in a U. S. Coast Guard required random drug testing program.

NOTE: The review of this 3<sup>rd</sup> criteria may take up to 2 weeks to approve.

The Commission will be closed for following State Holidays:

December 24 (the offices will close at noon), December 25 (closed all day),

December 26 (closed all day), January 1 (closed all day), January 2 (closed all day)

Because of these Holiday closures, we would greatly appreciate it, if only those captains planning to take fishing trips the first 2 weeks of January apply during the last 2 weeks of December.

You must purchase your Class A or Class B Fishing Guide License or apply for the Fishing Guide Reciprocity Permit before a charter/head boat striped bass permit may be issued.

For additional information, please contact Sonya Davis at 757-247-8155.