



Connecticut Department of

**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

DEEP Reminds Fishing and Hunting Guides of New Registration Requirement For 2015

Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) reminds people providing fishing and hunting guide services in Connecticut that beginning in January 2015 they need to register annually with DEEP. Guides can register online using DEEP's Online Sportsmen Licensing system (www.ct.gov/deep/sportsmenlicensing) or in person at DEEP offices and other vendors where hunting and fishing licenses and permits are available. There is a \$100.00 fee for this registration.

This new fishing and hunting guide registration was established by Public Act 14-201 and signed into law by Governor Malloy in June 2014. Just like fishing and hunting licenses, the registration is valid for the calendar year. Under this new law, hunting or fishing guide services means "...aiding, assisting or instructing any person in the taking of fish or wildlife while in the fields, forests or on the waters of the state in exchange for any form of remuneration."

Operators and crew of vessels registered in Connecticut as a charter, party or head boat are exempt from the new guide registration when providing fishing guide services on the registered vessel. Individuals operating under a guide registration using a vessel to fish for or land marine species are limited to two customers per trip. A passenger-for-hire license issued by the United States Coast Guard is required for those operating on navigable waters of the state, which include Long Island Sound, the Thames River, the Connecticut River north to Hartford, and the Housatonic River downstream of Derby Dam.

There are a number of other provisions of Public Act 14-201 that will be of interest to anglers and hunters. Fishing, hunting and trapping licenses fees for 16 and 17 year olds have been reduced to 50% of the regular fee. Most hunting permits, stamps and tags will also be ½ price for 16 and 17 year olds. Additionally, secondary schools can now obtain a fishing license

exemption for students when they participate in a fishing activity for a class that includes a fishing component as part of its curricula.

Those providing guide services are also reminded that they should continue to obtain all other fishing and hunting licenses (and permits) as needed for their activities. The 2015 fishing, hunting and trapping licenses are now available and can be purchased directly online, or at one of the many participating town halls, tackle retailers and DEEP offices. **Remember that 2015 Fishing, hunting and trapping licenses for 16 and 17 year olds will be ½ price** (most hunting permits, stamps and tags will also be ½ price for 16 and 17 year olds). For a complete list of vendors, visit the DEEP website (www.ct.gov/deep/fishing) or call DEEP Licensing and Revenue (860-424-3105).

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