

Prior law prohibited a person to act as or represent himself to be a saltwater charter boat fishing guide unless that person has, in his name, a valid state charter boat fishing license, a valid captain's license issued by the U.S. Coast Guard, and a valid state recreational fishing license. Further required any person acting as a saltwater charter boat fishing guide who is in charge of the operation of a vessel to have required licenses on his person while on the water.

New law retains prior law and includes the requirement of having proof of liability insurance. Further requires the liability insurance to be written by an insurance company with at least an A- rating in the latest printing of the A.M. Best's Key Rating Guide in a sufficient amount as determined by the commission to protect the public.

Prior law provided that a charter fishing operation which does not have a charter boat fishing guide present must have a charter boat license. Further required such license to be for a charter fishing operation which consists of a large motorized vessel carrying small skiffs attached to it with such skiffs to be used by no more than two people for fishing purposes. Required the main motorized vessel to carry a charter boat license and the captain to have a valid captain's license issued by the U.S. Coast Guard with the license on his person.

New law retains prior law and requires the main motorized vessel to carry proof of liability insurance. Further requires the liability insurance to be written by an insurance company with at least an A- rating in the latest printing of the A.M. Best's Key Rating Guide and in a sufficient amount as determined by the commission to protect the public.

Effective August 1, 2012.

(Amends R.S. 56:302.9(A) and 302.9.1(A))