



2025 Changes to Vessel Registration System for the Registration of Freshwater and Saltwater Charter Vessels in Alaska

With the shift to 100% electronic reporting for the charter sector in 2025, the Guide Registration and Logbook Programs are making significant efforts to modernize the remaining components of the registration process. Presently, **guides** and **businesses** may register themselves online or in an ADF&G Area Office using the State's eVendor software (input by a Dept. staff member). However, businesses needing to register a sport fishing charter **vessel** with ADF&G must still register in-person through signing out a paper ADF&G logbook. This process requires a business to provide the name of the vessel (if specified), business name, ADF&G BL# for the business registering the vessel, AK/USCG# of the vessel, and the primary port or drainage the vessel will be operating from that year. All this information is entered into the registration page inside the front cover of the paper logbook (a backup logbook for those operating in Southeast Alaska) and removed from the book to then get mailed to ADF&G registration technicians in Anchorage. A carbon-copy remains inside the logbook to serve as proof of registration.

Unfortunately, this paper-based system leads to significant issues due to the time lag between issuing and processing, registration pages being lost in the mail, or registration pages not being removed from the book and sent to the Program Technician. In 2021, an attempt at using the eLogbook to register vessels online was made. However, this approach has not been widely adopted, and requires an extensive amount of outreach and support to get operators to use.

In 2025, the Guide Registration Program aims to modernize the vessel registration process by adding the feature to both the ADF&G Online Store and to eVendor. This new approach will significantly overhaul: the current registration process, the appearance of paper backup logbooks (which are set to be phased out entirely by 2026), and dramatically expedite the vessel registration process.

To summarize, the following changes are being proposed to the SALTWATER VESSEL REGISTRATION PROCESS:

- 1) Vessel registration will be available in person at an ADF&G Area Office using eVendor or online through the ADF&G Online Store.
- 2) When applying in-person:
 - a. ADF&G staff will use eVendor to submit the application.
 - b. Applicants will receive a temporary vessel registration and a temporary backup logbook page via email.

- c. Applicants will also receive paper copies of the temp registration and logbook page from front office staff.
 - d. Applicants will receive annual year stickers and vessel decals (if needed).
 - e. Applicants will be handed an eLogbook backup/transcription logbook to be used as backup or if they prefer to enter on paper and then eLogbook after the trip. They are not required to take this, but it is encouraged.
- 3) When applying online:
- a. Applicants will receive a temporary vessel registration and a temporary backup logbook page via email.
 - b. The temporary registration may be used to obtain annual year stickers and decals (if needed). These may also be mailed if selected at checkout by applicant.
 - c. When picking up documents in 3-b above, applicants will be handed an eLogbook backup/transcription logbook to be used as backup or if they prefer to enter on paper and then eLogbook after the trip. They are not required to take this, but it is encouraged.
- 4) When applying online or in person, applications are sent directly to the Guide Registration and Logbook Program's technician to be processed. Upon processing, applicants receive an email containing:
- a. A pdf of the annual registration for their vessels (vessel will share a registration number now that the paper logbook is no longer the registration mechanism). This mirrors the current freshwater vessel registration system.
 - b. A printable pdf eLogbook backup/transcription logbook page with instructions (same as the physical copy they received).

Sincerely,



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