

**Boating Safety Unit  
Division of Boating and Waterways  
For-Hire Vessel Carrier Insurance  
Verification Certificate Program**

**Program Summary:**

The For-Hire Vessel Carrier Insurance Verification Certificate program verifies and documents mandatory insurance for all For-Hire Vessel companies that performs passenger transportation services for compensation (e.g. fishing charters, sightseeing tours, sunset cruises etc.) in California waters.

The Division of Boating and Waterways assumed responsibility of the For-Hire Vessel Carrier Program from the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Senate Bill 19, approved by the Governor on October 2, 2017, which transferred the regulatory authority to regulate vessels for hire to the Division of Boating and Waterways effective July 1, 2018.

The Division requires every for-hire vessel company to procure and continue in effect so long as the for-hire vessel company continues to offer its services for compensation, adequate protection against liability imposed by law upon a for-hire vessel company for the payment of damages for personal bodily injuries, including death resulting from those services, and property damage as a result of an accident (SB 19, Section 9, Article 2.9, Subsection 759.2).

DBW currently has (183) active For-Hire Vessel Carrier applicants and continues to receive new applicants weekly.

**Statistics:**

The Division currently charges \$25 for new and renewal applications.

In the 2020 Calendar Year, the program generated \$4,575.

**Goals and Objectives:**

1. To Establish For-Hire Vessel Carrier Regulations within the DBW.
2. Continue to build relationships with commercial marine insurance companies.
3. Perform outreach to inform For-Hire companies of Program requirements.