

**Division of Boating and Waterways
For-Hire Vessel Operator
May 2019**

Summary:

A For-Hire vessel is defined as “any vessel propelled by machinery carrying more than three passenger’s for-hire for valuable consideration, whether directly or indirectly flowing to the owner, charterer, operator, agent or any other person interested in the vessel.”

The operator of the For-Hire vessel who has met the requirements of California Boating Law, Article 3, Harbors and Navigation Code 760-772 must be licensed with the department.

For-Hire licensing laws apply to operators of powered vessels carrying more than three passengers for money or other consideration on California waters not under Federal jurisdiction. Water skiers being towed by a powered vessel are considered as passengers. Waters not considered under Federal jurisdiction are those which cannot be navigated to the sea or to another state and are considered “non-navigable”.

- Licensees must be at least eighteen (18) years old.
- Licensees must have one year's experience in operating the type of boat on the type of water for which the license is requested. In certain cases, other experience or training may be substituted.
- Licensees must be in good physical condition.
- Licensees must have adequate knowledge and skills necessary for safe operation of a passenger vessel. Written and practical (on-the water) examinations are given.

Budget:

Currently the law does not allow for any fees to be charged for this license. However, legislation has been proposed under Assembly Bill 865, Chapter 425, which would allow the Division to establish appropriate fees to cover the cost of facilitation the For-Hire License program.

Goals and Objectives for FY 19/20:

1. To finalize For-Hire Vessel Operator Regulations within the DBW.
2. To connect both the For-Hire Vessel Carrier Program with the For-Hire Vessel Operator Program to get all companies that offer For-Hire services in compliance with the new For-Hire Vessel Carrier Insurance Verification Certificate Program.