



Chartering a Boat?

Here are some things you need to be aware of...

The vessel you are inquiring about may be operating in violation of United States law and you may be entering into an agreement that is illegal or unsafe.

A **“Passenger”** is anyone on a vessel (boat) other than the “crew”. If they have given “consideration” for being aboard, they are “for hire”. **Passengers** on bareboat charters are considered guests and cannot be passengers “for hire”.

“Consideration” is anything that could be construed as being economically beneficial to the vessel owner. This includes past/future business, political favor, cash, etc.

A **“Bareboat Charter”** is a contractual agreement between the vessel owner and you, “the charterer”, with no crew provided by the owner. The Charterer has complete command, control and possession of the vessel for the duration of the contract.

See Passenger Vessel Safety Act, 1993 or feel free to contact our office at the number provided below for more details.

The vessel must be inspected by the Coast Guard to do the following (not all inclusive):

- Carry over six passengers (at least one for hire) with a crew provided (includes rentals);
- Bareboat charter for more than 12 guests of the charterer;
- Charge as a platform for events, even at the pier, for more than six passengers;

Charters include, but are not limited to; fishing, sightseeing tours, dinner/sunset cruises, and dockside parties.

The person operating a vessel in commercial service must be a holder of a current Coast Guard Issued License to carry even one passenger for hire.

COAST GUARD
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The purpose of the Coast Guard Marine Safety Program is to eliminate the operation of substandard vessels in U.S. waters by effectively administering, managing & implementing commercial vessel safety, security & environmental protection compliance programs.