



Arctic

National Wildlife Refuge

Requirements for Motor Boat Businesses and Their Boat Operators

Arctic Refuge must regulate all commercial uses of Refuge lands and waters, including boat businesses around Barter Island. This helps ensure businesses protect fish, wildlife, and their habitats; use safe procedures; and obey federal laws.

If you take passengers for hire aboard a vessel, then you are participating in a motor boat business. Motor boat businesses must have a permit from Arctic Refuge, and their commercial motor boat operators must be listed on that permit. Refuge permit applications are due by April 15 each year. Refuge staff can help business owners complete the Refuge permit process. Contact Alfredo Soto (907-456-0303) or Jennifer Reed (907-455-1835) in Fairbanks.

Federal laws require that anyone taking passengers for hire aboard a vessel on inland or near-coastal waters must have at least a US Coast Guard-issued license for Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessels (OUPV). The OUPV license allows each operator to take up to six passengers for hire, which gives the common name of a “six-pack license.”

Here are some items a Refuge permit application must include:

- A completed application form
- \$100.00 administrative fee payment
- Business license issued by the State of Alaska
- US Coast Guard license (required for each of your business’s motor boat operators)

A Refuge permit will be issued for businesses when:

- Application review is complete (can take 45 days)
- Proof of business insurance is on file at Arctic Refuge
- US Coast Guard license for each of your business’s motor boat operators is in your permit file at the Refuge

How do motor boat operators get an OUPV (six-pack) license from the US Coast Guard?

- 1) Email Ilisagvik College Community and Workforce Development Training Manager at workforce@ilisagvik.edu to see how they can help. They may be able to:
 - provide partial tuition reimbursement
 - assist with travel
 - organize local classes (if there is sufficient enrollment)
 - get you one-on-one US Coast Guard and Transportation Security Administration application assistance
- 2) You should work with person assisting you with your application to:
 - complete the US Coast Guard classes
 - document your current qualifying Sea Service (minimum of 360 days required)
 - pass written, physical, and fitness exams
 - pass drug testing
 - obtain your TWIC Card from the Transportation Security Administration
 - submit to the US Coast Guard a complete packet requesting Merchant Mariner OUPV (six-pack) license, including five forms and TWIC Card



Ilisagvik College provides workforce development support services to North Slope residents. For more information, visit their web site at <http://www.ilisagvik.edu/?p=829>.



Complete licensing requirements for a Merchant Mariner OUPV credential/ Six-pack License are outlined on the U.S. Coast Guard licensing website at <http://www.uscg.mil/STCW/>. See the “Forms” block to look over the five main required forms for the application.

