



MEMORANDUM

To: Ed Parker, President, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Dale Hall, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

From: Glen Salmon, Cochair, Joint Federal/State Task Force on Federal Assistance Policy
Glen Salmon
Rowan Gould, Cochair, Joint Federal/State Task Force on Federal Assistance Policy
Rowan Gould

Subject: License Certification in the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

The purpose of this memorandum is to recommend that you clarify how the States will certify hunting and fishing licenses that are valid for 365 days from the date of purchase. The license-certification methodology is important because it can affect the apportionment of funds in the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration programs.

The laws (16 USC 669 et seq. and 16 USC 777 et seq.) and regulations (50 CFR 80.10c) stipulate that a 1-year license can be included in only one license-certification period. States traditionally issued licenses for dates that corresponded with a calendar year or predetermined starting and ending dates. The advent of licenses that are valid 365 days from the date of purchase has created some confusion and the potential for double counting of such licenses in two license-certification periods.

We recommend that you jointly send a letter to the Directors of the fish and wildlife agencies of the States and other eligible jurisdictions that will clarify the license certification issue as follows:

- A 1-year license can be counted in only one license-certification period.
- A State must decide to either:
 - (a) count licenses that are **sold** during a State-identified license-certification period (1 year), or
 - (b) count licenses that are **valid** during a State-identified license-certification period (1 year).

- A State can only select one methodology and must be consistent from year to year, and it must be clearly identified for audit purposes.

We have attached for your consideration a draft letter that will communicate to the States our recommended clarifications. This draft reflects the consensus opinion of the Joint Federal/State Task Force on Federal Assistance Policy.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 202-208-7337 for Rowan Gould or 317-234-1897 for Glen Salmon.

Attachments



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/AWSR-FA: 031956

To: State Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Secretary, Department of Natural Resources of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
Governor of Guam
Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands
Governor of American Samoa
Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mayor of the District of Columbia

The purpose of this letter is to clarify how States will certify hunting and fishing licenses that are valid for 365 days from the date of purchase. The license-certification methodology is important because it can affect the apportionment of funds in the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration programs.

The laws (16 USC 669 et seq. and 16 USC 777 et seq.) and regulations (50 CFR 80.10c) stipulate that a 1-year license can be included in only one license-certification period. The advent of a 365-day license has created some confusion and the potential for double counting of such licenses in two license-certification periods.

Effective immediately, a 1-year license can be counted in only one license-certification period. A State must decide to either:

- (a) count licenses that are **sold** during a State-identified license-certification period (1 year), or
- (b) count licenses that are **valid** during a State-identified license-certification period (1 year).

A State can only select one methodology and must be consistent from year to year. The methodology must be clearly identified for audit purposes. Again, the overriding rule is that a single 1-year license can be counted in only one license-certification period.

Please feel free to contact Rowan Gould, Assistant Director for Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Programs, at (202) 208-7337 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



DIRECTOR,
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



PRESIDENT,
ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND
WILDLIFE AGENCIES