

BEFORE YOU CHARTER a vessel, examine the operator's Coast Guard Motorboat Operator's License, like the one shown above. Operators are required by Federal regulations to hold a current license before carrying passengers for hire.

## Coast Guard Advises Charter Boatmen Need Licenses

season now in full swing, many

JUNEAU - With the boating fishermen without boats will be chartering vessels. The Coast Guard reminds you that a license is required to carry passengers for hire. Before closing any agreement, examine the operator's license.

In order to carry six or less passengers for hire on a motorboat, the operator is required to hold a valid Motorboat Operators License issued by the U.S. Coast Guard. The vessel need only be equipped to meet pleasure boat standards with one exception: Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) must be Coast Guard approved Type I Life Preservers.

Persons who gamble on saving a few dollars by chartering a non-licensed operator run many risks. Before the Coast Guard will issue a Motorboat Operators License, the applicant is required to pass a written test.

He is tested for such things as regulations governing motorboats, Rules of the Road for boatmen, fire protection, safe and proper handling of gasoline, navigation, lifesaving equipment,

first-aid, knowledge of local weather, and pollution control.

A \$500.00 penalty may be invoked against persons carrying passengers for hire without a license.

For further information concerning Federal requirements for carrying passengers for hire, contact the Coast Guard Marine Inspection Office at P.O. Box 1286, Anchorage, AK. 99510 or telephone 265-5371.