



PETITION FOR ADOPTION, AMENDMENT, OR REPEAL OF A STATE ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

Print Form

In accordance with [RCW 34.05.330](#), the Office of Financial Management (OFM) created this form for individuals or groups who wish to petition a state agency or institution of higher education to adopt, amend, or repeal an administrative rule. You may use this form to submit your request. You also may contact agencies using other formats, such as a letter or email.

The agency or institution will give full consideration to your petition and will respond to you within 60 days of receiving your petition. For more information on the rule petition process, see Chapter 82-05 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=82-05>.

CONTACT INFORMATION *(please type or print)*

Petitioner's Name Nello Picinich

Name of Organization Coastal Conservation Association Washington

Mailing Address [REDACTED]

City [REDACTED] State [REDACTED] Zip Code [REDACTED]

Telephone [REDACTED] Email [REDACTED]

COMPLETING AND SENDING PETITION FORM

- Check all of the boxes that apply.
- Provide relevant examples.
- Include suggested language for a rule, if possible.
- Attach additional pages, if needed.
- Send your petition to the agency with authority to adopt or administer the rule. Here is a list of agencies and their rules coordinators: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/CodeReviser/Documents/RClst.htm>.

INFORMATION ON RULE PETITION

Agency responsible for adopting or administering the rule: Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Commission

1. NEW RULE - I am requesting the agency to adopt a new rule.

The subject (or purpose) of this rule is: Establishing standards for public notice and transparency for public meeting for Columbia River Compact meetings.

The rule is needed because: There are currently no standards for public notice, transparency, and making records available for meetings of the Columbia River Compact.

The new rule would affect the following people or groups: The public that has an interest in the management of Columbia River recreational and commercial fisheries.

2. AMEND RULE - I am requesting the agency to change an existing rule.

List rule number (WAC), if known: _____

I am requesting the following change: _____

This change is needed because: _____

The effect of this rule change will be: _____

The rule is not clearly or simply stated: _____

3. REPEAL RULE - I am requesting the agency to eliminate an existing rule.

List rule number (WAC), if known: _____

(Check one or more boxes)

It does not do what it was intended to do.

It is no longer needed because: _____

It imposes unreasonable costs: _____

The agency has no authority to make this rule: _____

It is applied differently to public and private parties: _____

It conflicts with another federal, state, or local law or rule. List conflicting law or rule, if known: _____

It duplicates another federal, state or local law or rule. List duplicate law or rule, if known: _____

Other (please explain): _____

Rulemaking Petition: Establishing standards for public notice and transparency for Columbia River Compact meetings

Proposed rule language:

The department shall provide public notice of Columbia River Compact Meetings no less than 24 hours in advance of a meeting. This notice shall include the instructions for the public to participate, in person or remotely. All documents and materials to be considered at Columbia River Compact meetings shall be made available to the public not less than six hours before a meeting, unless the Director determines a shorter period is needed due to exigent circumstances. The department shall record all meetings of the Columbia River Compact and make those recordings publicly available on its website for a period of not less than six months.

Background:

WDFW is part of the Columbia River Compact which makes important decisions about fisheries that impact endangered species and are of great interest to residents throughout the Columbia River Basin and beyond.

Unfortunately, the Compact frequently fails to follow common norms and requirements for public notice and transparency that apply to many other governmental meetings.

For example, meetings are often held with less than 24 hours' notice. The teleconference call-in details to participate remotely are commonly provided to the public just 2-3 hours before the meetings. Compact "Fact Sheets" are commonly provided mere minutes before meetings begin.

While there is a need in some instances to move quickly for in-season management, WDFW should commit to some minimum standards – including providing the teleconference call-in details at the same time the notice of hearing is provided.

The Compact meetings are currently not recorded, which deprives the public, elected officials, and the Fish and Wildlife Commission of the opportunity to review the proceedings. These meetings should be recorded and made part of the public record.

Many individuals have raised concerns about these issues numerous times over several years with little change. WDFW's website extolls its commitment to transparency and WDFW should therefore align the proceedings of the Columbia River Compact with very basic standards for public notice and transparency.

The proposed rule language provides a good framework for public involvement and transparency, while providing WDFW flexibility to work within in-season management constraints.