



RULE-MAKING ORDER EMERGENCY RULE ONLY

CR-103E (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.350 and 34.05.360)

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: February 14, 2024

TIME: 4:14 PM

WSR 24-05-042

Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (24-18)

Effective date of rule:

Emergency Rules

- Immediately upon filing.
- Later (specify) February 15, 2024

Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?

- Yes
 - No
- If Yes, explain:

Purpose: This emergency rule will allow non-treaty commercial fishing opportunities in the Columbia River while protecting fish listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. This rule implements federal court orders governing Washington’s relationship with Treaty Indian Tribes, federal law governing Washington’s relationship with Oregon, and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission policy guidance for Columbia River fisheries.

Citation of rules affected by this order:

- New:
- Repealed:
- Amended: WAC 220-358-030
- Suspended:

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.12.045 and 77.12.047

Other authority: *United States v. Oregon*, Civil No. 68-513-KI (D. Or.), Order Adopting 2018-2027 United States v. Oregon Management Agreement (February 26, 2018) (Doc. No. 2607-1). *Northwest Gillnetters Ass'n v. Sandison*, 95 Wn.2d 638, 628 P.2d 800 (1981); Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission policies concerning Columbia River fisheries; 40 Stat. 515 (Columbia River Compact).

EMERGENCY RULE

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds:

- That immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.
- That state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this finding: Sets 2024 winter, spring, and summer Select Area commercial seasons. Impacts to non-local stocks are expected to be minimal and local Chinook stocks reared for the Select Area sites are available for harvest. Preseason modeling results in a Select Area commercial fisheries allocation of ≤387 upriver spring Chinook. The fishery is consistent with the U.S. v Oregon Management Agreement and the associated Biological Opinion. Conforms Washington state rules with Oregon state rules. Regulation is consistent with Compact Action of February 13, 2024. The general public welfare is protected with the immediate opening of non-treaty Select Area fisheries. This harvest opportunity allows for public access to the resource as well as the maintenance of sustainable fish populations. There is insufficient time to promulgate permanent rules.

Washington and Oregon jointly regulate Columbia River fisheries under the congressionally-ratified Columbia River Compact. Four Indian Tribes have treaty fishing rights in the Columbia River. The treaties preempt state regulations that fail to allow the Tribes an opportunity to take a fair share of the available fish, and the states must manage other fisheries accordingly. *Sohappy v. Smith*, 302 F. Supp. 899 (D. Or. 1969). A court order sets the current parameters. *United States v. Oregon*, Civil No. 68 513 KI (D. Or.), Order Adopting 2018-2027 United States v. Oregon Management Agreement (February 26, 2018) (Doc. No. 2607-1). Some salmon and steelhead stocks in the Columbia River are listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act. On February 23, 2018, the National Marine Fisheries Service issued a biological opinion under 16 U.S.C. § 1536 that allows for some incidental take of these species in the fisheries as described in the 2018-2027 U.S. v. Oregon Management Agreement.

Some Columbia River Basin salmon and steelhead stocks are listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissions have developed policies to guide the implementation of such biological opinions in the states' regulation of non-treaty fisheries.

Columbia River non-treaty fisheries are monitored very closely to ensure compliance with federal court orders, the Endangered Species Act, and Commission guidelines. Because conditions change rapidly, the fisheries are managed almost exclusively by emergency rule. Representatives from the Washington and Oregon Departments of Fish and Wildlife convene public hearings and take public testimony when considering proposals for new emergency rules. WDFW and ODFW then adopt regulations reflecting agreements reached.

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:

Federal statute:	New	<u>1</u>	Amended	___	Repealed
Federal rules or standards:	New	<u>1</u>	Amended	___	Repealed
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	<u>1</u>	Amended	___	Repealed

The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:

New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
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The number of sections adopted on the agency's own initiative:


New	<u>1</u>	Amended	___	Repealed
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The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
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The number of sections adopted using:

Negotiated rule making:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Pilot rule making:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Other alternative rule making:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___

Date Adopted: February 14, 2024	Signature: 
Name: Kelly Susewind	
Title: Director	

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-358-03000A Columbia River seasons below Bonneville.

Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-358-030, WAC 220-358-040, and WAC 220-335-050, it is unlawful for a person to take or possess salmon, sturgeon, and shad for commercial purposes from Columbia River Salmon Management and Catch Reporting Areas 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E and Select Areas, except during the times and conditions listed below:

(1) Tongue Point and South Channel areas:

Open Dates	Open Days	Open Time	Open Duration
Feb 15 – Mar 8	Sun, Tue, Thu (nights)	7:00pm - 7:00am	10 nights
Apr 22 – Apr 26	Mon, Thu (nights)	7:00pm - 7:00am	2 nights
Apr 29 – May 3	Mon, Wed, Thu (nights)	7:00pm - 7:00am	3 nights
May 6 – Jun 14	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu (nights)	7:00pm - 7:00am	24 nights

Tongue Point Area only:

Open Dates	Open Days	Open Time	Open Duration
Mar 10	Sun (night)	8:00pm - 12:00am	4 hrs
Mar 12 – Mar 13	Tue (night)	9:00pm - 1:00am	4 hrs
Mar 14 – Mar 15	Thu (night)	10:30pm - 2:30am	4 hrs
Mar 18	Mon (morning)	1:30am – 5:30am	4 hrs
Mar 20	Wed (morning)	4:00am - 8:00am	4 hrs

South Channel Area only:

Open Dates	Open Days	Open Time	Open Duration
Mar 10 – Mar 22	Sun, Tue, Thu (nights)	7:00pm - 7:00am	6 nights
Mar 25	Mon (night)	8:00pm - 12:00am	4 hrs
Mar 28 – Mar 29	Thu (night)	9:00pm - 1:00am	4 hrs
Apr 1	Mon (night)	8:00pm - 12:00am	4 hrs
Apr 4 – Apr 5	Thu (night)	11:00pm - 3:00am	4 hrs
Apr 8	Mon (night)	7:30pm - 11:30pm	4 hrs
Apr 11- Apr 12	Thu (night)	9:30pm - 1:30am	4 hrs
Apr 16 – Apr 17	Tue (night)	9:00pm - 1:00am	4 hrs
Apr 18 – Apr 19	Thu (night)	11:00pm - 3:00am	4 hrs

(a) Area definitions: Effective February 15 through June 14, 2024:

- (i) Tongue Point: Waters of the Columbia River bounded by a line from the end of the southern-most pier (#1) at the Tongue Point Job Corps facility projecting in a straight line through flashing red USCG light “6” to the shore of Mott Island, a line from a regulatory marker at the southeast end of Mott Island northeasterly to a regulatory marker on the northwest shore of Lois Island, and a line from a regulatory marker located on the Oregon shore approximately 300 yards northwest of the railroad bridge crossing the John Day River projecting easterly to a regulatory marker on the southwest shore of Lois Island. If the marker on the Oregon shore is not in place, the upper boundary is defined by a line projecting

easterly from a point (46°10'57.7"N latitude 123°44'35.3"W longitude) on the Oregon shore approximately 300 yards northwest of the railroad bridge crossing the John Day River to a regulatory marker on the southwest shore of Lois Island.

- (ii) South Channel: Defined as waters of the Columbia River bounded by a line from a regulatory marker on the Oregon shore at John Day Point projecting northeasterly to a regulatory marker on the southwest shore of Lois Island, and a line from a regulatory marker on Settler Point projecting northwesterly to the flashing red USCG light “10” then projecting westerly to the eastern tip of Burnside Island.

(b) Gear: Gillnets:

- (i) February 15 through April 12, 2024: 7-inch minimum mesh size.
- (ii) April 16, 2024, until further notice: 9¾-inch maximum mesh size.
- (iii) The maximum net length is 1,500 feet (250 fathoms).
- (iv) In the Tongue Point Area, the lead line weight may not exceed two pounds per any one fathom.
- (v) In the South Channel Area, there is no lead line weight limit and attachment of additional weight and anchors directly to the lead line is permitted.

(2) Blind Slough and Knappa Slough areas:

Open Dates	Open Days	Open Time	Open Duration
Feb 15 – Mar 22	Sun, Tue, Thu (nights)	7:00pm - 7:00am	16 nights
Mar 25 – April 12	Mon, Thu (nights)	7:00pm - 7:00am	6 nights
Apr 16 – Apr 19	Tue, Thu (nights)	7:00pm - 7:00am	2 nights
Apr 22 – Apr 26	Mon, Thu (nights)	7:00pm - 7:00am	2 nights
April 29 – May 3	Mon, Wed, Thu (nights)	7:00pm - 7:00am	3 nights
May 6 – Jun 14	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu (nights)	7:00pm - 7:00am	24 nights

(a) Area definitions:

- (i) The Blind Slough Select Area is defined as waters of Blind Slough and Gnat Creek from a north-south line represented by regulatory markers at the mouth of Blind Slough upstream to a regulatory marker in Gnat Creek located approximately 0.5 miles southeasterly (upstream) of the Barendse Road Bridge.
- (ii) The Knappa Slough Select Area is defined as waters of Knappa Slough, Calendar Slough, and Big Creek Slough bounded to the north (upstream) by a line projecting from a regulatory marker on the eastern shore of Karlson Island to the northernmost regulatory marker at the mouth of Blind Slough and bounded to the west (downstream) by a line projecting southerly from a regulatory marker on the southwestern tip of Karlson Island through regulatory markers on the western tips of Minaker Island to a marker on the Oregon shore.

The waters of Knappa Slough within a 100-foot radius of the railroad bridge crossing Big Creek are closed.

Through May 3 the downstream (western) boundary in Knappa Slough is a north-south line projecting through the easternmost tip of Minaker Island and regulatory markers on Karlson Island and the Oregon shore.

(b) Gear: Gillnets:

- (i) February 15 through April 12, 2024: 7-inch minimum mesh size.
- (ii) April 16, 2024, until further notice: 9¾-inch maximum mesh size.
- (iii) The maximum net length is 600 feet (100 fathoms).
- (iv) There is no lead line weight limit and attachment of additional weight or anchors directly to the lead line is permitted.

(c) Miscellaneous: Permanent transportation rules in effect.

(3) Deep River Select Area:

Open Dates	Open Days	Open Time	Open Duration
Feb 15 - Mar 22	Sun, Tue, Thu (nights)	7:00pm - 9:00am	16 nights
Mar 25 - Apr 12	Mon, Thu (nights)	7:00pm - 9:00am	6 nights
Apr 16 - Apr 19	Tue, Thu (nights)	7:00pm - 9:00am	2 nights
Apr 22 - Apr 26	Mon, Thu (nights)	7:00pm - 9:00am	2 nights
Apr 29 - May 3	Mon, Wed, Thu (nights)	7:00pm - 9:00am	3 nights
May 6 - Jun 14	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu (nights)	7:00pm - 9:00am	24 nights

(a) Area definition: From the mouth of Deep River defined as a line from USCG navigation marker #16 southwest to a marker on the Washington shore, upstream to the Highway 4 Bridge.

(b) Gear: Gillnets:

- (i) February 15 through April 12, 2024: 7-inch minimum mesh size.
- (ii) April 16 through June 14, 2024: 9¾-inch maximum mesh size.
- (iii) The maximum net length is 600 feet (100 fathoms).
- (iv) There is no lead line weight limit and attachment of additional weight or anchors directly to the lead line is permitted.
- (v) Nets may not fully cross navigation channel. It is unlawful to operate in any river, stream or channel any gill net longer than three-fourths the width of the stream (WAC 220-354-010). It shall be unlawful in any area to use, operate, or carry aboard a commercial fishing vessel a licensed net or combination of such nets, whether fished singly or separately, in excess of the maximum lawful size or length prescribed for a single net in that area, except as otherwise provided for in the rules and regulations of the department rule (WAC 220-353-060).

(c) Miscellaneous:

- (i) Transportation or possession of fish outside the fishing area (except to the sampling station) is unlawful until WDFW staff has biologically sampled individual catches. After sampling, fishers will be issued a transportation permit by WDFW staff.
- (ii) February 15 through June 14, 2024: fishers are required to call 360-798-8098 to confirm the place and time of sampling.

(4) Allowable Sales: Salmon (except Chum) and shad.

(5) 24-hour quick reporting is in effect for Washington buyers (WAC 220-352-315). Permanent transportation rules in effect. Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210.

- (6) Multi- Net Rule:** Nets not specifically authorized for use in these areas may be onboard a vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater (WAC 220-358-030(2)).
- (7) Lighted Buoys:** Nets that are fished at any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net unless the net is attached to the boat. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the opposite end of the net from the boat is required.