



EXPEDITED RULE MAKING

CR-105 (June 2004)
(Implements RCW 34.05.353)
EXPEDITED RULE MAKING ONLY

Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Title of rule and other identifying information: (Describe Subject) WAC 220-56-255 Halibut—Seasons—Daily and Possession limits; and WAC 220-56-250 Lingcod--areas and seasons.

NOTICE

THIS RULE IS BEING PROPOSED UNDER AN EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS THAT WILL ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR THE AGENCY TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS, PREPARE A SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT, OR PROVIDE RESPONSES TO THE CRITERIA FOR A SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE RULE. IF YOU OBJECT TO THIS USE OF THE EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS, YOU MUST EXPRESS YOUR OBJECTIONS IN WRITING, AND THEY MUST BE SENT TO

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AND RECEIVED BY March 19, 2012.

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: The purpose of this proposal is to revise the date that fishing for bottomfish is restricted seaward of 20 fathoms in Marine Areas 3 (La Push) and 4 (Neah Bay). This proposal also allows rockfish retention seaward of 30 fathoms from March 15 through June 15 in Marine Catch Area 2 (Westport), and it restricts lingcod fishing in deepwater portions of Marine Catch Areas 1 (Ilwaco/Chinook) and 2 (Westport).

Depth restrictions and areas closures are needed to ensure that catch of yelloweye and canary rockfish taken incidentally during recreational halibut and bottomfish trips do not exceed federal harvest guidelines. Yelloweye and canary rockfish are considered overfished species and managed under rebuilding plans by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC). These changes are necessary to make state regulations consistent with federal regulations. The federal regulations are listed in Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 50, Part 660.

Reasons supporting proposal: This rule change conforms state rules to regulations adopted by the PFMC and implemented into federal regulation by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Input from Washington recreational fishermen was gathered during the PFMC public process and during public meetings sponsored by WDFW.

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

Statute being implemented: RCW 77.04.020, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047

Is rule necessary because of a:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| Federal Law? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Federal Court Decision? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| State Court Decision? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

If yes, CITATION:
CFR Title 50, Part 660

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: January 11, 2012

TIME: 2:05 PM

WSR 12-03-053

DATE

January 11, 2012

NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)

Lori Preuss

SIGNATURE

TITLE

Rules Coordinator

(COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE)

Name of proponent: (person or organization) Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

- Private
- Public
- Governmental

Name of agency personnel responsible for:

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Enforcement.....	Chief Bruce Bjork	1111 Washington St., SE, Olympia, WA	(360) 902-2929

Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters:

None.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order 11-141, filed 7/6/11, effective 8/6/11)

WAC 220-56-250 Lingcod--Areas and seasons. It is unlawful to take, fish for, or possess lingcod for personal use except during the following seasons and areas:

(1) Coastal area:

(a) Catch Record Card Areas 1 through 3: The Saturday closest to March 15, through the Saturday closest to October 15;

(b) Catch Record Card Area 4 west of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line: April 16 through October 15, or the Saturday closest to October 15 if that Saturday comes before October 15, whichever is earlier; and

(c) Catch Record Card Area 4 east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line: April 16 through October 15.

(d) It is unlawful to fish for, retain, or possess lingcod in Catch Record Card Area 1 seaward of a line extending from 46°38.17'N. lat., 124°21.00'W. long. to 46°25.00'N. lat., 124°21.00'W. long. year-round.

(e) It is unlawful to fish for, retain, or possess lingcod in Catch Record Card Area 2 seaward of a line extending from 47°31.70'N. lat., 124°45.00'W. long. south to 46°38.17'N. lat., 124°30.00'W. long. year-round, except that lingcod may be taken, retained and possessed seaward of the line on days open during the primary halibut season.

(2) Catch Record Card Areas 5 through 13: May 1 through June 15 by angling, and May 21 through June 15 by spear fishing.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order 10-199, filed 8/4/10, effective 9/4/10)

WAC 220-56-255 Halibut--Seasons--Daily and possession limits.

(1) It is unlawful to fish for or possess halibut taken for personal use except from the areas or in excess of the amounts provided for in this section:

(a) Catch Record Card Area 1: Open on the first Thursday in May or May 1, if May 1 is a Friday or Saturday, through the third Saturday in July, from 12:01 a.m. each Thursday through 11:59 p.m. each Saturday. The fishery will reopen on the first Friday in August through September 30, from 12:01 a.m. each Friday through 11:59 p.m. each Sunday. By-catch restriction: It is unlawful during any vessel trip to bring into port or land bottomfish, except sablefish or Pacific cod, if the vessel has brought halibut into port or landed halibut.

(b) Catch Record Card Area 2:

(i) The northern near shore fishery takes place in those waters from 47°31.70'N. lat. south to 46°58.00'N. lat. and east of a boundary line approximating the 30 fathom depth contour as defined by the following coordinates:

47°31.70'N. lat., 124°37.03'W. long.

47°25.67'N. lat., 124°34.79'W. long.

47°12.82'N. lat., 124°29.12'W. long.

46°58.00'N. lat., 124°24.24'W. long.

Open on the first Sunday in May through September 30 on days that all other waters in Area 2 are open, as specified in (b)(ii) of this subsection, and from 12:01 a.m. each Thursday through 11:59 p.m. each Sunday.

(ii) All other waters in Area 2 - Open on the first Sunday in May through the third Sunday in May from 12:01 a.m. through 11:59 p.m. each Sunday, and from 12:01 a.m. through 11:59 p.m. each Tuesday. Beginning on the third Sunday in May through September 30, the halibut fishery will be open from 12:01 a.m. through 11:59 p.m. each Sunday.

(iii) From March 15 through June 15, it is unlawful to fish for or possess bottomfish, except rockfish, seaward of line approximating the 30-fathom depth contour as defined by the coordinates below. However, a person may fish for and retain sablefish and Pacific cod from May 1 through June 15 and retain lingcod on days open during the primary halibut season as described in (b)(ii) of this subsection, seaward of a line approximating the 30-fathom depth contour as defined by the coordinates below:

47°31.70'N. lat., 124°37.03'W. long.

47°25.67'N. lat., 124°34.79'W. long.

47°12.82'N. lat., 124°29.12'W. long.

46°52.94'N. lat., 124°22.58'W. long.

46°44.18'N. lat., 124°18.00'W. long.

46°38.17'N. lat., 124°15.88'W. long.

(c) Catch Record Card Areas 3 and 4 - Open the first Thursday between May 9 and May 15 of each year through September 30, from 12:01 a.m. through 11:59 p.m. each Thursday, and from 12:01 a.m. through 11:59 p.m. each Saturday. The following area southwest of Cape Flattery is closed to halibut fishing at all times:

Those waters within an eastward-facing C-shaped closed area defined as: Beginning at 48°18'N. lat., 125°18'W. long.; thence to 48°18'N. lat., 124°59'W. long.; thence to 48°11'N. lat., 124°59'W. long.; thence to 48°11'N. lat., 125°11'W. long.; thence to 48°04'N. lat., 125°11'W. long.; thence to 48°04'N. lat., 124°59'W. long.; thence to 48°00'N. lat., 124°59'W. long.; thence to 48°00'N. lat., 125°18'W. long.; thence to the point of origin.

It is unlawful to fish for or possess bottomfish seaward of a line approximating the 20-fathom depth contour as defined by the following coordinates, from (~~May 21~~) June 1 through September 30, on days and times closed to halibut fishing:

48°23.9'N. lat., 124°44.2'W. long.

48°23.6'N. lat., 124°44.9'W. long.

48°18.6'N. lat., 124°43.6'W. long.

48°18.6'N. lat., 124°48.2'W. long.

48°10.0'N. lat., 124°48.8'W. long.

48°02.4'N. lat., 124°49.3'W. long.

47°37.6'N. lat., 124°34.3'W. long.

47°31.7'N. lat., 124°32.4'W. long.

(d) Catch Record Card Area 5 - Open the Thursday before Memorial Day through September 30, except closed to fishing for halibut beginning at 12:01 a.m. each Tuesday through 11:59 p.m. each Wednesday.

(e) Catch Record Card Areas 6 through 13 - Open May 1 through September 30, except closed to fishing for halibut beginning at 12:01 a.m. each Tuesday through 11:59 p.m. each Wednesday.

(2) Daily limit is one halibut taken from state or offshore waters. This does not include Canadian waters; see WAC 220-56-156 for limits on Canadian-origin halibut.

(3) The possession limit is two daily limits of halibut in any form, except the possession limit aboard the fishing vessel is one daily limit. See WAC 220-56-156 for rules on Canadian-origin halibut possession.

(4) A violation of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.370 or 77.15.380, depending on the violation.