



# RULE-MAKING ORDER

**CR-103E (July 2011)**  
**(Implements RCW 34.05.350)**

**Agency:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Emergency Rule Only**

**Effective date of rule:**

**Emergency Rules 12-49**

- Immediately upon filing.
- Later (specify) 7:00 a.m. April 3, 2012

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

- Yes
  - No
- If Yes, explain:

**Purpose:** The purpose of this rule-making is to allow non-treaty commercial fishing opportunity in the Columbia River while protecting fish listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. This rule-making 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 existing rules affected by this order:**

Repealed: WAC 220-33-01000K  
 Amended: WAC 220-33-010  
 Suspended:

**Statutory authority for adoption:** RCW 77.04.130, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047

**Other authority :** *United States v. Oregon*, Civil No. 68-513-KI (D. Or.), Order Adopting 2008-2017 *United States v. Oregon* Management Agreement (Aug. 12, 2008) (Doc. No. 2546); *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.
- That in order to implement the requirements or reductions in appropriations enacted in any budget for fiscal year 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, or 2013, which necessitates the need for the immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the fiscal needs or requirements of the agency.

Reasons for this finding: (See Attachment)

**Date adopted:** April 2, 2012

**NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)**  
Philip Anderson

**SIGNATURE**

**TITLE**  
Director

**CODE REVISER USE ONLY**

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

**DATE: April 02, 2012**  
**TIME: 4:20 PM**

**WSR 12-08-050**

**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:**

<b>Federal statute:</b>	New	<u>1</u>	Amended	_____	Repealed	<u>1</u>
<b>Federal rules or standards:</b>	New	<u>1</u>	Amended	_____	Repealed	<u>1</u>
<b>Recently enacted state statutes:</b>	New	_____	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 in the agency's own initiative:**

New	<u>1</u>	Amended	_____	Repealed	<u>1</u>
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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:**

<b>Negotiated rule making:</b>	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
<b>Pilot rule making:</b>	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
<b>Other alternative rule making:</b>	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____

NEW SECTION

**WAC 220-33-01000L Columbia River seasons below Bonneville.**

Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-33-010, WAC 220-33-020, and WAC 220-33-030, 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. Mainstem Columbia River**

- a) **Area:** SMCRA 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, and 1E (Zones 1-5).
- b) **Dates:** 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM Tuesday, April 3, 2012.
- c) **Allowable Sales:** Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, shad and white sturgeon (43-54 inch fork length). A maximum of 6 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open.
- d) **Sanctuaries:** Grays River, Elochoman-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Sandy, and Washougal rivers, as applicable.
- e) **Gear:** Drift nets only. 4¼" maximum mesh size restriction. Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. Net length can increase from 150 to 175 fathoms for nets constructed with a steelhead excluder panel, weedlines, or droppers.

The excluder panel web must be a minimum mesh size of 12" stretched measure when taut under hand tension. Monofilament mesh is allowed for the excluder panel only. The excluder panel must be a minimum of five feet in depth and must not exceed ten feet in depth as measured from the corkline to the upper margin of the tangle-net mesh as the net hangs naturally from a taut corkline. Weedlines or droppers (bobber type) may be used in place of the steelhead excluder panel. A weedline-type excluder means the net is suspended below the corkline by lines of no less than five feet in length between the corkline and the upper margin of the tangle net. A dropper-type excluder means the entire net is suspended below the surface of the water by lines of no less than five feet in length extending from individual surface floats to a submersed corkline. The corkline cannot be capable of floating the net in its entirety (including the leadline) independent of the attached floats. Weedlines or droppers must extend a minimum of five feet above the 4¼" maximum mesh size tangle net. Tangle nets constructed with a steelhead excluder panel, weedlines, or droppers must have two red corks at each end of the net, as well as the red corks required under miscellaneous regulations. There are no restrictions on the use of slackers or stringers to slacken the net vertically. There are no restrictions on the hang ratio. The hang ratio is used to horizontally add slack to the net and is determined by the length of the web per length of the corkline.

Nets not lawful for use at that time and area may be onboard the boat if properly stored. A "properly stored" net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by 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.

**f) Miscellaneous Regulations:**

**Soak times**, defined as the time elapsed from when the first of the gillnet web is deployed into the water until the gillnet web is fully retrieved from the water, must not exceed 45 minutes.

**Red corks** are required at 25-fathom intervals, and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net.

**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

**Recovery Box:** Each boat will be required to have on board two operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers. Each box and chamber and associated pump shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked. Each chamber of the recovery box(es) must include an operating water pumping system capable of delivering a minimum flow of 16 gallons per minute, not to exceed 20 gallons per minute of freshwater per chamber. Each chamber of the recovery box must meet the following dimensions as measured from within the box: the inside length measurement must be at or within 39 ½ inches to 48 inches; the inside width measurements must be at or within 8 to 10 inches; and the inside height measurement must be at or within 14 to 16 inches.

Each chamber of the recovery box must include a water inlet hole between ¾ inch and 1 inch in diameter, centered horizontally across the door or end wall of the chamber and 1¾ inches from the floor of the chamber. Each chamber of the recovery box must include a water outlet hole that is at least 1½ inches in diameter located on either the same or opposite end as the inlet. The center of the outlet hole must be located a minimum of 12 inches above the floor of the box or chamber. The fisher must demonstrate to WDFW and ODFW employees, fish and wildlife enforcement officers, or other peace officers, upon request, that the pumping system is delivering the proper volume of fresh river water into each chamber.

All non-legal sturgeon, non-adipose fin-clipped salmon, and steelhead must be released immediately to the river with care and with the least possible injury to the fish, or placed into an operating recovery box.

Any fish that is bleeding or lethargic must be placed in the recovery box prior to being released. All fish placed in recovery boxes must be released to the river prior to landing or docking.

**Observer program:** As a condition of fishing, owners or operators of commercial fishing vessels must cooperate with department observers or observers collecting data for the department, when notified by the observer of his or her intent to board the commercial vessel for observation and sampling during an open fishery.

**Live Capture workshop:** Only licensed Columbia River commercial fishers that have completed the required state-sponsored workshop concerning live-capture commercial fishing techniques may participate in this fishery. At least one fisher on each boat must have live-capture certification.

**24-hour quick reporting** is required for Washington wholesale dealers, per WAC 220-69-240.

## 2. Deep River Select Area

- a) **Area:** From the markers at USCG navigation marker #16, upstream to the Highway 4 Bridge.
- b) **Dates:** Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM Thursday night April 19, Tuesday night April 24, and each Monday and Thursday night from April 26, 2012, until further notice.
- c) **Gear:** Gillnets. 9 3/4-inch maximum mesh. Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on headline. Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the headline is allowed. Nets cannot be tied off to stationary structures. 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 220-20-015 (1)). 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 (WAC 220-20-010 (17)). 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. 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
- d) **Allowable Sale:** Salmon, shad, and white sturgeon. A maximum of two white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open.
- e) **Miscellaneous:** 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. A sampling station will be established at WDFW's Oneida Road boat ramp, about 0.5 miles upstream of the lower Deep River area boundary (USCG navigation marker #16).
- f) **24-hour** quick reporting in effect for Washington buyers.

## 3. Tongue Point/South Channel

- a) **Area:** Tongue Point fishing area includes all waters bounded by a line extended from the upstream (southern most) pier (#1) at the Tongue Point Job Corps facility, through navigation marker #6 to Mott Island (new spring lower deadline); a line from a marker at the southeast end of Mott Island, northeasterly to a marker on the northwest tip of Lois Island; and a line from a marker on the southwest end of Lois Island, westerly to a marker on the Oregon shore.  
The South Channel area includes all waters bounded by a line from a marker on John Day Point through the green USCG buoy #7 to a marker on the southwest end of Lois Island, upstream to an upper boundary line from a marker on Settler Point, northwesterly to the flashing red USCG marker #10, and northwesterly to a marker on Burnside Island defining the upstream terminus of South Channel.
- b) **Dates:** Monday and Thursday nights from April 26, 2012, until further notice. Open hours are 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM

- c) **Gear:** Gillnets. In the Tongue Point fishing area, gear restricted to 9 3/4-inch maximum mesh size, maximum net length of 250 fathoms, and weight not to exceed two pounds on any one fathom. In the South Channel fishing area, gear restricted to 9 3/4-inch maximum mesh size, maximum net length of 100 fathoms, no weight restriction on leadline, and use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed.

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. 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.

- d) **Allowable Sale:** Salmon, shad, and white sturgeon. A maximum of two white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open.
- e) **Miscellaneous:** During April 26 through May 11, 2012, transportation or possession of fish outside the fishing area is unlawful (except while in transit to ODFW sampling stations) until ODFW staff has biologically sampled individual catches. A sampling station will be established at the MERTS dock. After sampling, fishers will be issued a transportation permit by agency staff. Beginning May 14, fishers are required to call 971-230-8247 and leave a message including name, catch, and where and when fish will be sold.
- f) **24-hour** quick reporting in effect for Washington buyers.

#### 4. Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Area

- a) **Area:** Blind Slough and Knappa Slough areas are open. From April 30 through June 15, 2012, the lower boundary of the Knappa Slough fishing area is extended downstream to boundary lines defined by markers on the west end of Minaker Island to markers on Karlson Island and the Oregon Shore (fall season boundary).
- b) **Dates:** Thursday night April 19, Tuesday night April 24, and Monday and Thursday nights from April 26, 2012 until further notice. Open hours are 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM
- c) **Gear:** Gillnets. 9 3/4-inch maximum mesh. Nets are restricted to 100 fathoms in length, with no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed.

Nets fished any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the end of the net opposite the boat is required.

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.

- d) **Allowable Sales:** Salmon, shad, and white sturgeon. A maximum of two white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open.
- e) **24-hour** quick reporting in effect for Washington buyers. Permanent transportation rules in effect.

## R E P E A L E R

The following section of the Washington Administrative Code is repealed effective 7:00 a.m. April 3, 2012:

WAC 220-33-01000K Columbia River seasons below Bonneville. (12-15)

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**EMERGENCY RULE ONLY**

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds:

(x) 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.

( ) That in order to implement the requirements or reductions in appropriations enacted in any budget for fiscal years 2009, 2010, or 2011, which necessitates the need for the immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the fiscal needs or requirements of the agency.

**Reasons for this finding:** Sets the first 2012 mainstem commercial salmon season. Based on preseason forecasts for ESA-listed salmonids, impacts associated with the season are expected to remain within allowable limits. The fishery is consistent with the *U.S. v Oregon Management Agreement* and the associated Biological Opinion. Winter and spring Select Area commercial seasons remain in place. Conforms Washington state rules with Oregon state rules. Regulation is consistent with Compact Action of January 26 and April 2, 2012. 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 federal court order sets the current parameters for sharing between treaty Indians and others. *United States v. Oregon*, Civil No. 68-513-KI (D. Or.), Order Adopting 2008-2017 United States v. Oregon Management Agreement (Aug. 12, 2008) (Doc. No. 2546).

Some Columbia River Basin salmon and steelhead stocks are listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act. On May 5, 2008, 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 treaty and non-treaty Columbia River fisheries governed by the 2008-2017 *U.S. v. Oregon Management Agreement*. 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. **(12-49, 4/2/2012)**

