

Technical Changes to Recreational Fishing Rules Concise Explanatory Statement (CES)

The following WACs are amended as part of this rulemaking:

WAC 220-56-100, Definitions—Personal-use fishing;
WAC 220-56-112, Sampling data and tag recovery;
WAC 220-56-115, Angling gear—Lawful and unlawful acts;
WAC 220-56-175, Catch record cards;
WAC 220-56-500, Game fish seasons—General rules; and
WAC 232-12-166, Northern squawfish sport-reward fishery Columbia and Snake rivers.

Summary of reasons for rulemaking:

This rulemaking is technical in nature to make some needed corrections due to recent rulemakings, identified issues, and outdated references.

Explanation of changes in this rulemaking:

WAC 220-56-100, Definitions – Personal-use fishing

- Slight change to ensure that Dolly Varden and bull trout are distinguished.
- Change “shall be” to “are” as appropriate.
- Changes references to the former WAC 232-28-619 to the corrected references to WACs in chapter 220-310. This WAC was split apart last year and references to that rule need to be corrected.

WAC 220-56-112, Sampling data and tag recovery

- Deleted outdated reference to the former department of fisheries.

WAC 220-56-115, Angling gear—Lawful and unlawful acts

- Changes references to the former WAC 232-28-619 to the corrected references to WACs in chapter 220-310. This WAC was split apart last year and references to that rule need to be corrected.

WAC 220-56-175, Catch record cards

- Changes for ease of reading without changing the intent or effect of the rule language.
- Changes references to the former WAC 232-28-619 to the corrected references to WACs in chapter 220-310. This WAC was split apart last year and references to that rule need to be corrected.
- Clarifying language changes to ensure the reader understands what is lawful and unlawful.
- Removal of language with an effective date in 2009 as well as changing a reference to a bill to the codified statute section.

WAC 220-56-500, Game fish seasons—General rules

- Changes references to the former WAC 232-28-619 to the corrected references to WACs in chapter 220-310. This WAC was split apart last year and references to that rule need to be corrected.
- Changes to conform to the stream strategy changes made by the Fish Program, as well as the move to all waters being closed unless specifically listed as open in department rule during the last Sport Rules process so now all waterbodies are treated the same throughout the state. This rule needed to be changed to conform to the changes made during the last Sport Rules cycle.

WAC 232-12-166, Northern squawfish sport-reward fishery Columbia and Snake Rivers

- Corrects the name of the fish to its actual name of Northern Pikeminnow.
- Minor changes to move from “shall” to “must” – the change does not impact the effect, but is the more updated term to use in rule drafting.
- Additional changes to the rule to bring it into alignment with changes to the requirements of the fishery (size restriction, reporting etc.) as administered by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Differences between the text of the proposed rules and the text of the rules as adopted:

WAC 232-12-166 was adjusted to reflect the current size requirements, and check-in and reporting requirements in the Northern Pikeminnow fishery as administered by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. These changes are needed to ensure the rule aligns with the requirements established by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Summary of comments and WDFW’s response to and consideration of the comments:

No public comments were received as part of this rulemaking.