



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 220-314-050 Charter logbook required—Highly migratory species. (new WAC)
WAC 220-355-070 Coastal bottomfish gear
WAC 220-355-090 Coastal bottomfishing areas and seasons.
WAC 220-355-100 Coastal bottomfish catch limits.
WAC 220-355-130 Commercial Pacific halibut fishery—Seasons, gear, possession, and landing requirements.

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 August 21, 2017

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:
The purpose of the rule changes is to amend incorrect references to Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) provisions in several fish regulations and to create a new regulation that addresses the federal requirement for commercial and charter vessels to maintain a logbook for highly migratory fish species.

Reasons supporting proposal:
First, the new rule previously existed in the Fish and Wildlife code and was inadvertently repealed by the department. The rule needs to be restored to the code. In addition, the rule changes made through this expedited rulemaking are necessary to conform to federal regulations adopted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

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 300, Subpart E and Part 660, Subparts D - F

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED
DATE: June 17, 2017
TIME: 9:31 AM
WSR 17-13-084

DATE
June 17, 2017

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- Private
- Public
- Governmental

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

None

WAC 220-355-070 Coastal bottomfish gear. (1)(a) It is unlawful to take, fish for, possess, transport through the waters of the state, or land in any Washington state ports, bottomfish taken for commercial purposes in violation of gear requirements published in the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), Title 50, Part 660, (~~Subpart G~~) Subparts D through F. This subpart provides requirements for commercial groundfish fishing in the Pacific Ocean. Additional regulations may be listed in the Federal Register, and these override the C.F.R. if there are any inconsistencies. Prior to using coastal bottomfish gear, a person must consult both the Federal Register and the C.F.R.. This chapter, chapter 220-355 WAC, adopts the federal regulations imposed by the C.F.R. and the Federal Register, and it incorporates those regulations by reference. Where rules refer to the fishery management area, that area is extended to include Washington state waters coterminous with the Exclusive Economic Zone. A copy of the federal rules may be obtained by going on the internet (~~at www.pcouncil.org~~) to the National Marine Fisheries Service West Coast Region Groundfish page. State regulations may apply that are more restrictive than federal regulations.

(b) Violation of this subsection is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.520.

(2) Otter trawl and beam trawl.

(a) It is unlawful to use, operate, or carry aboard any fishing vessel otter trawl gear having meshes measuring less than 3 inches anywhere in the net.

(b) It is unlawful to use or operate any bottom roller or bobbin trawl having meshes less than 4.5 inches anywhere in the net. Rollers, bobbins, or discs used in roller or bobbin trawls must be a minimum of 14 inches in diameter.

(c) It is unlawful to use or operate a pelagic trawl with meshes less than 3.0 inches anywhere in the net. Footropes of pelagic trawls must be less than 1.75 inches in diameter, including twine necessary for seizing material. Sweep lines, including the bottom leg of the bridle, must be bare.

(d) It is unlawful to use or operate a pelagic trawl net unless bare rope or webbing with an individual mesh size no smaller than 16 inches completely encircles the net immediately behind the footrope or headrope for at least 20 feet. A band of mesh may encircle the net under transfer cables, or lifting or splitting straps (chokers), but the band must be: Over riblines and restraining straps; of the same mesh size, and coincide knot-to-knot with the net to which it is attached; and no wider than 16 meshes.

(e) It is unlawful to use or operate a trawl net that has chafing gear encircling more than 50 percent of the circumference of any bottom, roller, bobbin, or pelagic trawl, except as specified in (d) of this subsection. No section of chafing gear may be longer than 50 meshes of the body of the net to which it is attached. Except at the corners, the terminal end of each section of chafing gear must not be connected to the net. Chafing gear must be attached outside any rib lines and restraining straps. There is no limit on the number of sections of chafing gear on a net.

(f) It is unlawful to use double-wall cod ends in any trawl gear.

(g) Licensing: A food fish trawl, non-Puget Sound fishery license is the license required to operate the gear provided for in this section. Additionally, a federal limited entry permit is required in Areas 59A-1, 59A-2, 59B, 60A-1, and 60A-2, and that portion of Area 58B within the Exclusive Economic Zone.

(h) Violation of licensing requirements under this subsection is punishable pursuant to RCW 77.15.500.

(i) Violation of gear requirements under this subsection is punishable pursuant to RCW 77.15.520.

(3) Set lines.

(a) It is unlawful for the operator of set lines to leave such gear unattended, unless the following requirements are met:

(i) Gear must be marked with a buoy. The buoy must have affixed to it in a visible and legible manner a department-approved and registered buoy brand issued to the licensee. Set lines must also be marked at the surface at each terminal end with a pole and flag, light, and radar reflector.

(ii) Buoys affixed to unattended gear must be visible on the surface of the water except during strong tidal flow or extreme weather conditions.

(iii) Set lines must be attended to no less than every seven days.

(b) Licensing: A food fish set line fishery license is the license required to operate the gear provided for in this section.

(c) Violation of licensing requirements under this subsection is punishable pursuant to RCW 77.15.500.

(4) Bottomfish pots.

(a) It is unlawful for the operator of bottomfish pots to leave such gear unattended, unless the following requirements are met:

(i) Gear must be marked with a buoy. The buoy must have affixed to it, in a visible and legible manner, a department-approved and registered buoy brand issued to the licensee.

(ii) Bottomfish pots laid on a ground line must be marked at the surface with a pole and a flag, light, and radar reflector at each terminal end.

(iii) Buoys affixed to unattended gear must be visible on the surface of the water except during strong tidal flow or extreme weather conditions.

(iv) Bottomfish pots must be attended to no less than every seven days.

(b) Licensing: A bottomfish pot fishery license is the license required to operate the gear provided for in this section.

(c) Violation of licensing requirements under this subsection is punishable pursuant to RCW 77.15.500.

(5) Commercial jig gear.

(a) Licensing: A bottomfish jig fishery license is the license required to operate the gear provided for in this section.

(b) Violation of licensing requirements under this subsection is punishable pursuant to RCW 77.15.500.

(6) Troll lines.

(a) Licensing: A bottomfish troll fishery license is the license required to operate the gear provided for in this section.

(b) Violation of licensing requirements under this subsection is punishable pursuant to RCW 77.15.500.

WAC 220-355-090 Coastal bottomfishing areas and seasons. (1)(a)

It is unlawful to possess, transport through the waters of the state, or land in any Washington state port bottomfish in violation of any area or time closure or requirement as published in the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), Title 50, Part 660, (~~(Subpart G)~~) Subparts D through F. These federal regulations provide the requirements for commercial groundfish fishing in the Pacific Ocean. There may be additional regulations listed in the Federal Register, and these override the regulations in the C.F.R. if there are any inconsistencies between the two. Chapter 220-355 WAC incorporates the C.F.R. by reference and is based, in part, on the C.F.R. Where rules refer to the fishery management area, that area is extended to include Washington state waters coterminous with the Exclusive Economic Zone. A copy of the federal rules may be obtained by the internet at (~~(www.pcouncil.org)~~) the National Marine Fisheries Service West Coast Region Groundfish page. State regulations may apply that are more restrictive than federal regulations.

(b) Violation of catch requirements under this subsection is punishable pursuant to RCW 77.15.550.

(2)(a) It is unlawful to use otter trawl or beam trawl gear in state territorial waters (0-3 miles) within Areas 58B, 59A-1, 59A-2, 59B, 60A-1 or 60A-2.

(b) Violation of gear requirements under this subsection is punishable pursuant to RCW 77.15.520.

(3)(a) It is unlawful for vessels using trawl gear to take and retain or possess groundfish within the trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) or Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) zones, except that:

(i) Trawl gear vessels may transit through the trawl RCA or EFH zones with groundfish onboard, as long as the vessel does not fish for any species within the RCA or EFH zone on the same trip; and

(ii) The activity is otherwise authorized under federal regulations.

(b) For purposes of this section, "trawl RCA and EFH zones" means those areas and boundaries defined as "trawl RCA" or "EFH zone" in the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), Title 50, Part (~~(600)~~) 660, Subpart (~~(G)~~) D. The C.F.R. lists the requirements for commercial groundfish fishing in the Pacific Ocean. Additional regulations may be enacted and listed in the Federal Register, and these regulations override those in the C.F.R. if there are any inconsistencies between the two.

(c) Violation of catch requirements under this subsection is punishable pursuant to RCW 77.15.550.

(4)(a) It is unlawful for vessels using nontrawl gear to take and retain or possess groundfish within the nontrawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA), or to land such fish, except that:

(i) Nontrawl gear vessels may travel through the nontrawl RCA with groundfish onboard as long as the vessel does not fish for any species within the RCA on the same trip; and

(ii) The activity is otherwise authorized under federal regulations.

(b) For purposes of this section, "nontrawl RCA" means those areas and boundaries defined as "nontrawl RCA" in the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), Title 50, Part (~~(600)~~) 660, (~~(Subpart G)~~) Subparts E and F. The C.F.R. lists the requirements for commercial

groundfish fishing in the Pacific Ocean. Additional regulations may be enacted and listed in the Federal Register, and these supersede the federal regulations in the C.F.R. if there are any inconsistencies between the two.

(c) Violation of catch requirements under this subsection is punishable pursuant to RCW 77.15.550.

(5)(a) It is unlawful to use set line gear in state territorial waters (0-3 miles) within Areas 58B, 59A-1, 59A-2, 59B, 60A-1 and 60A-2, and in that portion of Area 58B within the Exclusive Economic Zone.

(b) Violation of catch requirements under this subsection is punishable pursuant to RCW 77.15.550.

(6)(a) It is unlawful to use bottomfish pots in state territorial waters (0-3 miles) within Areas 58B, 59A-1, 59A-2, 59B, 60A-1 and 60A-2, and in that portion of Area 58B within the Exclusive Economic Zone.

(b) Violation of catch requirements under this subsection is punishable pursuant to RCW 77.15.550.

(7)(a) It is unlawful to use commercial jig gear in state territorial waters (0-3 miles) within Areas 58B, 59A-1, 59A-2, 59B, 60A-1 and 60A-2, and in that portion of Area 58B within the Exclusive Economic Zone.

(b) Violation of catch requirements under this subsection is punishable pursuant to RCW 77.15.550.

(8)(a) It is unlawful to use bottomfish troll gear in state territorial waters (0-3 miles) within Areas 58B, 59A-1, 59A-2, 59B, 60A-1 and 60A-2, and in that portion of Area 58B within the Exclusive Economic Zone.

(b) Violation of catch requirements under this subsection is punishable pursuant to RCW 77.15.550.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-05-112, filed 2/15/17, effective 3/18/17)

WAC 220-355-100 Coastal bottomfish catch limits. (1)(a) It is unlawful to possess, transport through the waters of the state, or land in any Washington state port, bottomfish taken in excess of the amounts or less than the minimum or maximum sizes, or in violation of any of the possession, landing, or sorting requirements published in the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), Title 50, Part 660, (~~Subpart G~~) Subparts D through F. These federal regulations provide the requirements for commercial groundfish fishing in the Pacific Ocean. Additional regulations may be enacted and listed in the Federal Register, and these regulations override those in the C.F.R. if there are any inconsistencies between the two. Therefore, persons must consult these federal regulations, which chapter 220-355 WAC incorporates by reference and is based on, in part. Where rules refer to the fishery management area, that area is extended to include Washington state waters coterminous with the Exclusive Economic Zone. A copy of the federal rules may be obtained by the internet at (~~www.pcouncil.org~~) the National Marine Fisheries Service West Coast Region Groundfish page. State regulations may apply that are more restrictive than federal regulations.

(b) Violation of this subsection is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.550.

(2)(a) It is unlawful to possess, transport through the waters of the state, or land into any Washington port, walleye pollock taken with trawl gear from Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Areas 58B, 59A-1, 59A-2, 59B, 60A-1, 60A-2, 61, 62, or 63, except by trawl vessels participating in the directed Pacific whiting fishery and the directed coastal groundfish fishery.

(b) Violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.550.

(3)(a) It is unlawful for trawl vessels participating in the directed Pacific whiting and/or the directed coastal groundfish fishery to land incidental catches of walleye pollock greater than forty percent of their total landing by weight, not to exceed ten thousand pounds.

(b) Violation of this subsection is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.550.

(4)(a) It is unlawful for an original receiver to receive whiting and whiting by-catch under the authority of an exempted fishing permit (EFP) issued by NMFS through the department, unless the original receiver has entered into a signed agreement with the department specifying the responsibilities of the original receiver in conjunction with the whiting EFP fishery. Failure to comply with the terms of the agreement shall be cause to remove the original receiver from the list of original receivers allowed to receive unsorted whiting catches from EFP vessels.

(b) Violation of this subsection is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.550.

(5)(a) It is unlawful to land thresher shark taken by any means from state and offshore waters of the Pacific Ocean north of the Washington-Oregon boundary and south of the United States-Canada boundary. It is unlawful to land thresher shark taken south of the Washington-Oregon boundary unless each thresher shark landed is accompanied by a minimum of two swordfish.

(b) Violation of this subsection is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.550.

(6)(a) It is unlawful to take salmon incidental to any lawful bottomfish fishery.

(b) Violation of this subsection is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.550.

(7)(a) It is unlawful to retain sturgeon species, other than white sturgeon, taken incidental to any lawful bottomfish fishery. White sturgeon may be taken as long as the fisher complies with minimum and maximum size restrictions for commercial fisheries.

(b) Violation of this subsection is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.550.

(8)(a) It is unlawful to retain any species of shellfish taken incidental to any lawful bottomfish fishery, except that it is lawful to retain octopus and squid.

(b) Violation of this subsection is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.550.

WAC 220-355-130 Commercial Pacific halibut fishery—Seasons, gear, possession, and landing requirements. (1) The commercial Pacific halibut fishery is jointly managed by the Washington department of fish and wildlife (WDFW), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC). The Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) 50 C.F.R. § (~~300.60-300.67~~ and related appendices in) 300, Subpart E provide federal requirements for this fishery including, but not limited to, the time, place, and manner of taking Pacific halibut. This section adopts the federal regulations on Pacific halibut imposed by 50 C.F.R. § (~~300.60-300.67~~) 300, Subpart E and the Federal Register, and it incorporates those federal regulations by reference. A copy of the federal regulations may be obtained by contacting the department at 360-902-2200, or accessing a copy on-line at (~~www.pcouncil.org~~) the National Marine Fisheries Service West Coast Region Pacific Halibut page.

(a) It is unlawful to take, fish for, possess, transport through the waters of the state, or land in any Washington state port Pacific halibut taken for commercial purposes in violation of the requirements published in 50 C.F.R. § (~~300.60-300.67~~) 300, Subpart E.

(b) Where the federal regulations refer to the fishery management area, that area is extended to include Washington state waters adjacent to the Exclusive Economic Zone.

(c) If state rules are more restrictive than federal regulations, the Washington Administrative Code takes precedence over the federal regulations.

(d) Additional regulations on Pacific halibut may be listed in the Federal Register. Other regulations on Pacific halibut in the Federal Register take precedence over the Pacific halibut fishery regulations in 50 C.F.R. § 300.60-300.67 if the regulations conflict. The department recommends that a person consult the Federal Register and the C.F.R. prior to participating in the commercial Pacific halibut fishery.

(2) Violation of reporting requirements under this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.280.

(3) Violation of possession requirements under this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.550.

(4) Violation of gear requirements under this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.520.

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-314-050 Charter logbook required—Highly migratory species. (1) It is unlawful for any vessel operator engaged in charter fishing for highly migratory species (HMS) in those areas as defined in Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), Title 50, Part 660, Subpart K, to fail to:

(a) Possess an HMS logbook aboard the vessel while the vessel is engaged in HMS fishing or has HMS species on board;

(b) Submit the HMS logbook for inspection upon request by fish and wildlife officers.

(2) It is unlawful for any vessel operator engaged in charter fishing for HMS to fail to comply with the following methods and time frames of logbook submittal:

(a) Completed HMS log books must be submitted to the department or the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, Southwest Fisheries Science Center.

(b) Completed HMS log book sheets must be signed and submitted within thirty days following any calendar month in which fishing activity occurred.

(c) Copies of all submitted HMS logbooks must be retained for up to three years after the fishing activity ended.

(3) It is unlawful for vessel operators engaged in charter fishing for or in possession of highly migratory species (HMS) to fail to permanently and legibly record in ink the following information within the following time constraints:

(a) For each logbook sheet, the operator shall record:

(i) The vessel operators name;

(ii) Vessel name;

(iii) Year;

(iv) Port; and

(v) HMS permit number.

(b) The vessel operator shall record within twenty-four hours after the completion of each charter trip the following information:

(i) Departure and return month and day;

(ii) General latitude and longitude fished;

(iii) Number of anglers;

(iv) Number of jig lines, number of bait poles;

(v) Number of albacore retained and released, including average weight in pounds; and

(vi) Number of other fish species retained or released.

(4) For the purposes of this section, HMS logbook means a charter logbook issued by the Washington department of wildlife available upon request from the following locations:

(a) Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 600 Capitol Way, Olympia, WA 98501

(b) Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 48 Devonshire Road, Montesano, WA 98563

(5) Violation of each subsection of this section is punishable as a separate infraction, under RCW 77.15.160.