

Concise Explanatory Statement
Sport Fishing Rule Simplification Clarification and Correction

Rules amended as part of this rulemaking:

WAC 220-310-080	Game fish seasons – General rules
WAC 220-312-020	Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules - Coastal
WAC 220-212-050	Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules – Eastside
WAC 220-312-060	Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules - Columbia

Rules repealed as part of this rulemaking:

None

Rules created as part of this rulemaking:

None

1. Background/Summary of Project:

These changes are necessary to correct omitted rules that have previously been adopted by the commission or are required by ESA listings. It also serves to clarify language to reflect intention of simplification.

2. Reasons for adopting the rule:

WAC 220-310-080 – Clarify commission adopted language to reflect intention of opening all river, streams, and beaver ponds to a standard season of Saturday before Memorial Day through October 31 unless provided for in WAC 220-312-010 through 220-312-060

WAC 220-312-020 – Corrects the omission of the closure of all tributaries to the Elwah River (Clallam County) during the rule simplification process. The commission had previously adopted this rule.

WAC 220-312-050 – Corrects the omission of the closure to all steelhead fishing in the lower portion of the Chelan River (Chelan County). This is consistent with the current ESA listing for upper Columbia River Steelhead.

WAC 220-312-050 – Corrects and clarifies river section of Crab Creek (Adams/Grant/Lincoln County) that was omitted when the proposed rule was not adopted by the commission and should have reverted back to the previous sections.

WAC 220312-060 – Corrects the omission of the closure to all steelhead fishing in two sections of the Columbia River from the Old Handford townsite wooden power lines towers to Vernita Bridge and from Vernita Bridge to Priest Rapids Dam. This is consistent with the current ESA listing for upper Columbia River Steelhead.

3. Differences between the text of the proposed rule and the rule as adopted:

None

4. Public comments, response to comments, and consideration of comments

No public comments received.