



# 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 16-123**

- Immediately upon filing.
- Later (specify) 7:00 p.m. May 31, 2016

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

- Yes
  - No
- If Yes, explain:

**Purpose:** This emergency rule will allow non-treaty commercial fishing opportunities in the Columbia River while protecting fish listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. This rule 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Repealed: WAC 220-33-01000J  
 Amended: WAC 220-33-010  
 Suspended:

**Statutory authority for adoption:** RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 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:** May 27, 2016

**NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)**

J W Unsworth

**SIGNATURE**

**TITLE**

Director

**CODE REVISER USE ONLY**

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

**DATE: May 27, 2016**

**TIME: 11:22 AM**

**WSR 16-12-066**

(COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE)

**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 220-33-01000K 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) **Dates:** 7:00 p.m. Tuesday May 31 to 7:00 a.m. Wednesday June 1, 2016.
- b) **Area:** SMCRA 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, and 1E (Zones 1-5).
- c) **Sanctuaries:** Grays River, Elochoman-B, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Sandy, and Washougal rivers.
- d) **Allowable Possession:** Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon and shad.
- e) **Gear:** Drift nets only. 8-inch minimum mesh size. Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. 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.
- f) **Miscellaneous Regulations:**
  - (i) **Soak times** are 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.
  - (ii) **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.
  - (iii) **Recovery Box:** Each boat will be required to have on board two operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers. 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 box and chamber and associated pump shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked; pumps must continue to run until the net is fully retrieved and completely on board the vessel. Pumps shall continue to run whenever a fish is in the recovery box. 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 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 non-legal salmonid 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.

(iv) **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 the fishery. In addition, cooperation with department personnel prior to a fishing period is expected.

(v) **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.

## (2) Deep River Select Area

- a) **Dates:** Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM Monday and Thursday nights immediately through June 14, 2016.
- b) **Area:** From USCG navigation marker #16 southwest to a marker on the Washington shore, upstream to the Highway 4 Bridge.
- 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 and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline 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 gillnet 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).
- d) **Allowable Possession:** Chinook salmon and shad
- 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 catch. 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).

## (3) Tongue Point/South Channel

- a) **Dates:** Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM Monday and Thursday nights immediately through June 14, 2016.
- b) **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; 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 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.

- c) **Gear:** Gillnets. 9 3/4-inch maximum mesh. In the Tongue Point fishing area, gear restricted to a 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 a maximum net length of 250 fathoms, no weight restriction on leadline, and use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed.
- d) **Allowable Possession:** Chinook salmon and shad
- e) **Miscellaneous:** Permanent transportation rules in effect.

**(4) Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Area**

- f) **Dates:** Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM Monday and Thursday nights immediately through June 14, 2016.
- a) **Area:** Blind Slough and Knappa Slough areas are both open. Immediately until further notice, 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) **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 and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed.
- c) **Allowable Possession:** Chinook salmon and shad
- d) **Miscellaneous:** Permanent transportation rules in effect.

**(5) 24-hour quick reporting** is in effect for Washington buyers (WAC 220-69-240(14)(d)). Permanent transportation rules in effect.

**(6) Multi- Net Rule:** Nets not specifically authorized for use in these areas may be onboard a vessel if properly stored (WAC 220-33-001(2)).

**(7) 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.

**REPEALER**

The following section of the Washington Administrative Code is repealed effective 7:00 p.m. May 31, 2016:

WAC 220-33-01000J Columbia River seasons below Bonneville. (16-115)

## Attachment

Sets a mainstem commercial fishing period for hatchery spring Chinook. This season allows the commercial mainstem fishery to access some of its allocation of spring Chinook. Spring season Select Area commercial seasons also remain in place. The fishery is consistent with the *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement and the associated Biological Opinion. Conforms Washington state rules with Oregon state rules. Regulation is consistent with Compact Action of January 27 and May 26, 2016. 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.

