



EXPEDITED RULE MAKING

CR-105 (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.353)

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: April 07, 2021

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WSR 21-08-093

Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Title of rule and other identifying information: (describe subject)

WAC 220-314-010 Bottomfish and halibut – Closed areas.

WAC 220-314-020 Possession limits – Bottomfish

WAC 220-314-030 Halibut – Seasons – Daily and possession limits

WAC 220-314-040 Lingcod – Areas and Seasons

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: The purpose of these rule changes is to amend rules affecting the coastal recreational bottomfish and halibut fisheries so that they are consistent with regulations adopted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Recreational fisheries in Washington are primarily constrained by yelloweye rockfish. Depth restrictions have been an effective tool for minimizing encounters and keeping catch within state specific harvest guidelines (HG). Largely influenced by the federal yelloweye rockfish annual catch limit, regulatory changes focus on the timing and need for depth and area restrictions. The regulatory changes also consider reducing restrictions on the retention of healthy rockfish species and take an additional incremental step toward the relaxation of depth and area closures that began in 2019 and 2020.

WAC 220-314-040 Bottomfish and halibut – Closed areas.

This change would open the Westport Offshore Recreational YRCA and the South Coast Recreational YRCA to fishing for, retaining, and possessing bottomfish or halibut.

WAC 220-314-020 Possession limits – Bottomfish

This change would allow 5 flatfish in addition to the 9 fish daily bottomfish limit.

WAC 220-314-030 Halibut – Seasons – Daily and possession limits

Regulation changes are necessary to revise depth restrictions in Marine Area 1 through 4. Federal harvest quotas for yelloweye rockfish are sufficient to allow relaxation of depth restrictions which provides access to healthy lingcod resources that are commonly associated with yelloweye rockfish.

The 20-fathom depth restriction in Marine Areas 3 and 4 west of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line would be in place from June 1 through July 31. Yellowtail and widow rockfish retention is allowed seaward of the 120 foot depth restriction in July and August in Marine Area 4 east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line and would be allowed seaward of the 20 fathom depth restriction in Marine Areas 3 and 4 west of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line in the month of July 2021.

In Marine Area 2, the 30-fathom line would be in place from May 1 to May 31 2021.

In Marine Area 1 anglers would be allowed to retain the following bottomfish when halibut is on board: sablefish, Pacific cod, flatfish, yellowtail, widow, canary, redstriped, greenstriped, silvergray, chilipepper, bocaccio, blue and deacon rockfish, as well as lingcod north of the Washington-Oregon.

In Marine Areas 3 and 4, anglers will be allowed to retain lingcod, sablefish, Pacific cod, bocaccio, silvergray, canary, widow, and yellowtail rockfish

WAC 220-314-040 Lingcod – Areas and Seasons

A deepwater closed area is in place in Marine Area 1 and Marine Area 2; this rule change would allow lingcod retention in this deepwater area from June 1 through June 15 and September 1 through September 30 2021.

Reasons supporting proposal: This rule change conforms state regulations to regulations recently adopted by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council and implemented into federal regulation by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Stakeholder input from Washington recreational anglers was considered during the PFMC public hearing process and meetings sponsored by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 77.040.020, 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 660

Name of proponent: (person or organization) Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

<input type="checkbox"/> Private
<input type="checkbox"/> Public
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Governmental

Name of agency personnel responsible for:

	Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting:	Heather Hall	1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia, WA	(360) 902-2487
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Enforcement:	Steve Bear, Police Chief	1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia, WA	360 902-3463

Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters: None

Expedited Adoption - Which of the following criteria was used by the agency to file this notice:

- Relates only to internal governmental operations that are not subject to violation by a person;
- Adopts or incorporates by reference without material change federal statutes or regulations, Washington state statutes, rules of other Washington state agencies, shoreline master programs other than those programs governing shorelines of statewide significance, or, as referenced by Washington state law, national consensus codes that generally establish industry standards, if the material adopted or incorporated regulates the same subject matter and conduct as the adopting or incorporating rule;
- Corrects typographical errors, make address or name changes, or clarify language of a rule without changing its effect;
- Content is explicitly and specifically dictated by statute;
- Have been the subject of negotiated rule making, pilot rule making, or some other process that involved substantial participation by interested parties before the development of the proposed rule; or
- Is being amended after a review under RCW 34.05.328.

Expedited Repeal - Which of the following criteria was used by the agency to file notice:

- The statute on which the rule is based has been repealed and has not been replaced by another statute providing statutory authority for the rule;
- The statute on which the rule is based has been declared unconstitutional by a court with jurisdiction, there is a final judgment, and no statute has been enacted to replace the unconstitutional statute;
- The rule is no longer necessary because of changed circumstances; or
- Other rules of the agency or of another agency govern the same activity as the rule, making the rule redundant.

Explanation of the reason the agency believes the expedited rule-making process is appropriate pursuant to RCW 34.05.353(4): These changes are consistent with actions taken by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC), which includes an extensive stakeholder process. Through the Delegation of Authority provided by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission to the Director, WDFW regulatory changes for consistency with PFMC actions may be approved by the Director via expedited rulemaking

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 (date) June 22, 2021

Date: 4/7/21	Signature: 
Name: Annie Szvetecz	
Title: Agency Rules Coordinator	

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

WAC 220-314-010 Bottomfish and halibut—Closed areas. (1) It is unlawful to take, fish for, retain, or possess bottomfish or halibut taken for personal use from within the following areas: ~~((a))~~ An eastward-facing C-shaped closed area defined as: Beginning at 48°N, 124°59'W; thence to 48°N, 125°18'W; thence to 48°18'N, 125°18'W; thence to 48°18'N, 124°59'W; thence to 48°11'N, 124°59'W; thence to 48°11'N, 125°11'W; thence to 48°04'N, 125°11'W; thence to 48°04'N, 124°59'W; thence to the point of origin.

~~((b) The "Westport Offshore Recreational YRCA" closed area, defined by straight lines connecting the following specific latitude and longitude coordinates in the order listed: Beginning at 46°54.30'N, 124°53.40'W; thence to 46°54.30'N, 124°51.00'W; thence to 46°53.30'N, 124°51.00'W; thence to 46°53.30'N, 124°53.40'W, thence to the point of origin.~~

~~(c) The "South Coast Recreational YRCA" closed area, defined by straight lines connecting the following specific latitude and longitude coordinates in the order listed: Beginning at 46°58.00'N, 124°48.00'W; thence to 46°55.00'N, 124°48.00'W; thence to 46°55.00'N, 124°49.00'W; thence to 46°58.00'N, 124°49.00'W; thence to the point of origin.))~~

(2) In Marine Area 4 east of the westernmost point of Cape Flattery and Marine Area 5 through 13, it is unlawful to take, fish for, retain, or possess bottomfish taken for personal use except from within the following areas:

(a) In Marine Area 4 east of the westernmost point of Cape Flattery, Marine Area 5, and Marine Area 6 west of the easternmost point of Dungeness Spit: Waters inside of an area approximating 120 feet (20 fathoms) described by following the coordinates: 124°44.20'W, 48°23.90'N; 124°40.00'W, 48°24.10'N; 124°36.46'W, 48°23.61'N; 124°21.24'W, 48°17.71'N; 124°14.43'W, 48°15.96'N; 124°02.02'W, 48°11.91'N; 123°34.51'W, 48°09.93'N; 123°31.13'W, 48°11.02'N; 123°24.13'W, 48°08.53'N; 123°06.02'W, 48°11.45'N; 123°06.02'W, 48°08.22'N.

(b) In the remaining portion of Marine Area 6, and Marine Areas 7 through 11 and 13: Waters shallower than 120 feet (20 fathoms).

(c) In Marine Area 12 north of a true east line from the mouth of Turner Creek to the Toandos Peninsula: Waters shallower than 120 feet (20 fathoms).

(3) It is unlawful to take, fish for, retain, or possess rockfish taken for personal use from Marine Areas 6 through 13.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-04-058, filed 1/30/20, effective 7/1/20)

WAC 220-314-020 Possession limits—Bottomfish. It is unlawful for any person to fish for or take bottomfish for personal use except within the seasons, daily quantities, and possession limits prescribed as follows:

(1) Coastal areas (Marine Areas 1 through 3 and 4 west of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line):

(a) Bottomfish fishing is open the second Saturday in March through the third Saturday in October, except fishing for surfperch from the shore is allowed year-round.

(b) Limit of surfperch is 12 per person per day. For all other bottomfish, limit is 9 fish total per person per day, which may include no more than:

(i) Lingcod: 2 fish, no minimum length.

(ii) Rockfish: 7 fish in aggregate. The possession limit for yelloweye rockfish is 0.

(iii) Wolf-eel: 0 fish from Catch Record Card Area 4.

(iv) Cabezon: Marine Areas 1 through 4: 1 fish, no minimum size.

(c) Additional flatfish: In addition to the bottomfish limit in (b) of this subsection, anglers may take ((3)) 5 flatfish per person, per day, not to be counted towards the bottomfish limit but in addition to it.

(2) Inner Puget Sound (Marine Areas 4 east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line, and 5 through 13):

(a) Marine Area 4 east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line: Limit of surfperch is 12 per person per day. For all other bottomfish, 9 fish total, which may include no more than:

(i) Lingcod: 2 fish, no minimum length.

(ii) Rockfish: 7 fish. Only black, blue/deacon, yellowtail, and widow rockfish may be retained.

(iii) Wolf-eel: 0 fish.

(iv) Cabezon: 1 fish, no minimum size.

(b) Marine Areas 5 and 6: 15 fish total for all species and species groups of bottomfish, which may include no more than:

Rockfish in Marine Area 5 except	1 fish May 1 through September 30. Only black or blue/deacon rockfish may be retained.
in Marine Area 5 west of Slip Point	3 fish. Only black or blue/deacon rockfish may be retained.
in Marine Area 6.	0 fish
Surfperch	10 fish
Pacific cod	2 fish
Pollock	2 fish
Flatfish (except halibut)	15 fish
Lingcod	1 fish
Wolf-eel	0 fish
Cabezon	1 fish
Pacific hake	2 fish

(c) Marine Area 7: 15 fish total for all species of bottomfish, which may include no more than:

Rockfish	0 fish
Surfperch	10 fish
Pacific cod	2 fish
Flatfish (except halibut)	15 fish
Lingcod	1 fish

Wolf-eel	0 fish
Cabezon	1 fish
Pollock	2 fish
Pacific hake	2 fish

(d) Marine Areas 8-1 through 11, and 13: 15 fish total for all species and species groups of bottomfish, which may include no more than:

Rockfish	0 fish
Surfperch	10 fish
Pacific cod	0 fish
Pollock	0 fish
Flatfish (except halibut)	15 fish
Lingcod	1 fish
Wolf-eel	0 fish
Cabezon	1 fish
Pacific hake	0 fish

(e) Marine Area 12: 15 fish total for all species and species groups of bottomfish, which may include no more than:

Rockfish	0 fish
Surfperch	0 fish
Pacific cod	0 fish
Pollock	0 fish
Flatfish (except halibut) only in Dabob Bay north of Turner Creek	15 fish
Lingcod	0 fish
Wolf-eel	0 fish
Cabezon	0 fish
Pacific hake	0 fish

(f) The possession limit for lingcod taken by angling gear is 26 to 36 inches in length. For spear fishing, lingcod may not be possessed that exceed 36 inches in length but there is no minimum size limit.

(g) In Marine Areas 5 through 11, and 13, the minimum size limit for cabezon is 18 inches. All cabezon must be released in Marine Areas 5 through 11, and 13, from December 1 through April 30.

(h) In Marine Area 5, the daily limit for rockfish is the first legal rockfish caught, except that west of Slip Point, the daily limit for rockfish is the first three legal rockfish caught. Only black or blue/deacon rockfish may be retained. After the daily limit of rockfish is caught, all subsequent rockfish must be released.

(i) In Marine Area 5, it is unlawful to take rockfish by spear fishing except when this area is open to spear fishing for lingcod.

(3) The possession limit at any time may not exceed the equivalent of two daily limits in fresh, frozen or processed form.

(4) Unless otherwise provided, bottomfish fishing is open the entire year.

(5) Daily limits include bottomfish caught in adjacent areas bordering other states, such as Oregon.

(6) It is unlawful to fish for, retain, or possess sixgill, sevengill, or thresher sharks.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-04-058, filed 1/30/20, effective 7/1/20)

WAC 220-314-030 Halibut—Seasons—Daily and possession limits.

(1) It is unlawful to fish for or possess halibut taken for personal use except from the areas or in excess of the amounts provided for in this section:

(a) Marine Area 1: Closed except as provided by emergency rule. By-catch restriction: It is unlawful during any vessel trip to bring into port or land bottomfish, except flatfish, sablefish, Pacific cod, yellowtail rockfish, widow rockfish, canary rockfish, redstriped rockfish, greenstriped rockfish, silvergray rockfish, chilipepper, bocaccio, blue/deacon rockfish, and lingcod north of the Washington-Oregon border if the vessel has brought halibut into port or landed halibut.

(b) Marine Area 2:

(i) The northern near shore fishery takes place in those waters from 47°31.70'N. lat. south to 46°58.00'N. lat. and east of a boundary line approximating the 30 fathom depth contour as defined by the following coordinates:

47°31.70'N. lat., 124°37.03'W. long.
47°25.67'N. lat., 124°34.79'W. long.
47°12.82'N. lat., 124°29.12'W. long.
46°58.00'N. lat., 124°24.24'W. long.

Closed except as provided by emergency rule.

(ii) All other waters in Area 2 - Closed except as provided by emergency rule.

(iii) From (~~the second Saturday in March~~) May 1 through May 31, it is unlawful to fish for or possess lingcod, seaward of line approximating the 30-fathom depth contour as defined by the coordinates below. However, a person may fish for and retain lingcod on days open during the primary halibut season as described in (b)(ii) of this subsection, seaward of a line approximating the 30-fathom depth contour as defined by the coordinates below:

47°31.70'N. lat., 124°37.03'W. long.
47°25.67'N. lat., 124°34.79'W. long.
47°12.82'N. lat., 124°29.12'W. long.
46°52.94'N. lat., 124°22.58'W. long.
46°44.18'N. lat., 124°18.00'W. long.
46°38.17'N. lat., 124°15.88'W. long.

(c) Marine Areas 3 and 4 west of Bonilla-Tatoosh line - Closed except as provided by emergency rule. The following area southwest of Cape Flattery is closed to halibut fishing at all times:

Those waters within an eastward-facing C-shaped closed area defined as: Beginning at 48°18'N. lat., 125°18'W. long.; thence to 48°18'N. lat., 124°59'W. long.; thence to 48°11'N. lat., 124°59'W. long.; thence to 48°11'N. lat., 125°11'W. long.; thence to 48°04'N. lat., 125°11'W. long.; thence to 48°04'N. lat., 124°59'W. long.;

thence to 48°00'N. lat., 124°59'W. long.; thence to 48°00'N. lat., 125°18'W. long.; thence to the point of origin.

It is unlawful to fish for or possess bottomfish seaward of a line approximating the 20-fathom depth contour as defined by the following coordinates, from June 1 through (~~Labor Day~~) July 31 except, on days and times open to halibut fishing, it is permissible to retain lingcod, sablefish, bocaccio, silvergray rockfish, canary rockfish, widow rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, and Pacific cod. The retention of yellowtail rockfish and widow rockfish is permitted seaward of the line approximating 20 fathoms (~~on days open to the recreational salmon fishery~~) during the month(~~s~~) of July (~~and August~~):

48°23.9'N. lat., 124°44.2'W. long.

48°23.6'N. lat., 124°44.9'W. long.

48°18.6'N. lat., 124°43.6'W. long.

48°18.6'N. lat., 124°48.2'W. long.

48°10.0'N. lat., 124°48.8'W. long.

48°02.4'N. lat., 124°49.3'W. long.

47°37.6'N. lat., 124°34.3'W. long.

47°31.7'N. lat., 124°32.4'W. long.

(d) Marine Area 4 east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line, closed except as provided by emergency rule. It is unlawful to fish for or possess bottomfish seaward of a line approximating 120 feet except, on days open to the Pacific halibut fishery in this area, it is permissible to retain lingcod, and Pacific cod seaward of 120 feet as defined by WAC 220-314-010. The retention of yellowtail rockfish and widow rockfish is permitted seaward of the line approximating 120 feet (~~on days open to the recreational salmon fishery~~) during the months of July and August.

(e) Marine Areas 5 through 11, and 13 - On days that the halibut fishery is open, it is lawful to fish for, retain, and possess lingcod and Pacific cod seaward of 120 feet in Marine Area 5. Closed except as provided by emergency rule.

(2) Daily limit is one halibut taken from state or offshore waters. This does not include Canadian waters; see WAC 220-310-210 for limits on Canadian-origin halibut.

(3) The possession limit is two daily limits of halibut in any form, except the possession limit aboard the fishing vessel is one daily limit. See WAC 220-310-210 for rules on Canadian-origin halibut possession.

(4) The annual limit is four halibut taken from state or offshore waters. This does not include Canadian waters; see WAC 220-310-210 for limits on Canadian-origin halibut.

(5) It is unlawful to fish for, retain, possess, or land halibut into a port located within an area that is closed to halibut fishing. This does not include halibut caught in Canadian waters. See WAC 220-310-210 for rules on Canadian-origin halibut possession.

(6) A violation of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.370 or 77.15.380, depending on the violation.

WAC 220-314-040 Lingcod—Areas and seasons. It is unlawful to take, fish for, or possess lingcod for personal use except during the following seasons and areas:

(1) Coastal area:

(a) Marine Areas 1 through 4: From the second Saturday in March, through the third Saturday in October.

(b) It is unlawful to fish for, retain, or possess lingcod in Marine Area 1 seaward of a line extending from 46°38.17'N. lat., 124°21.00'W. long. to 46°33.00'N. lat., 124°21.00'W. long. when lingcod is open, except that lingcod may be taken, retained and possessed seaward of the line from June 1 through June 15 and September 1 through September 30.

(c) It is unlawful to fish for, retain, or possess lingcod in Marine Area 2 seaward of a line extending from 47°31.70'N. lat., 124°45.00'W. long. south to 46°38.17'N. lat., 124°30.00'W. long. when lingcod is open, except that lingcod may be taken, retained and possessed seaward of the line on days open during the primary halibut season and from June 1 through June 15 and September 1 through September ~~(15)~~ 30.

(2) Marine Areas 5 through 11, and 13: May 1 through June 15 by angling, and May 21 through June 15 by spear fishing.

(3) Marine Area 12: Closed year-round.