



RULE-MAKING ORDER PERMANENT RULE ONLY

CR-103P (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.360)

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: March 15, 2023

TIME: 11:28 AM

WSR 23-07-086

Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (23-42)

Effective date of rule:

Permanent Rules

- 31 days after filing.
 Other (specify) _____ (If less than 31 days after filing, a specific finding under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required and should be stated below)

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

- Yes No If Yes, explain:

Purpose: The purpose of this rule change is to adopt Washington Administrative Code for the coastal recreational bottomfish fishery that are consistent with regulations adopted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council).

Recreational fisheries in Washington harvest copper rockfish, quillback rockfish, and vermilion rockfish. To keep catch consistent with federal annual catch limits and within state specific harvest guidelines (HGs), the possession of copper rockfish, quillback rockfish, and vermilion rockfish would be prohibited in coastal marine waters for three months (May, June, and July) of the eight month recreational bottomfish season. The partial season restriction on possession is intended prohibit catch during peak periods to stay within the HGs while allowing possession during other months to support collection of biological (length, age) data essential to inform scientific stock assessment models that evaluate stock status.

WAC 220-314-020 Possession limits – Bottomfish

This change would prohibit the possession of copper rockfish, quillback rockfish, and vermilion rockfish in May, June, and July.

Citation of rules affected by this order:

New:
Repealed:
Amended: WAC 220-314-020 Possession Limits – Bottomfish
Suspended:

Statutory authority for adoption: RCWs 77.04.020, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047

Other authority: CFR Title 50, Part 660

PERMANENT RULE (Including Expedited Rule Making)

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 23-02-065 on January 04, 2023 (date).

Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version: None. This rule making went through the expedited rule making process which eliminated the need for the agency to hold a public hearing. No objections to this rule making were received.

If a preliminary cost-benefit analysis was prepared under RCW 34.05.328, a final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting:

Name:
Address:
Phone:
Fax:
TTY:
Email:
Web site:
Other:

**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:

Federal statute:	New	___	Amended	1	Repealed	___
Federal rules or standards:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Recently enacted state statutes:	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 on the agency's own initiative:

New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
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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:

Negotiated rule making:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Pilot rule making:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Other alternative rule making:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___

Date Adopted: March 14, 2023
Name: Kelly Susewind
Title: Director, Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Signature:



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. In May, June, and July the possession limit for copper rockfish, quillback rockfish, and vermilion 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 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, seven-gill, or thresher sharks.