



# 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: 11:35 AM

WSR 23-07-087

**Agency:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (23-43)

**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 allow commercial landings of dressed rockfish for vessels that obtain a director's permit to do so. To ensure accurate data collection for stock assessments, fish are currently required to be landed into Washington ports in the whole (also known as "round") condition, unless specifically exempted in regulation. This rule would expand the list of exempted species/species groups to include rockfishes, again as authorized by permit of the director.

Participants in the federal fixed gear sablefish fishery off Washington, as well as the salmon troll fishery, have expressed interest in the ability to land their incidentally caught rockfish in the dressed condition (i.e., gilled and gutted with the head attached) to preserve their marketability and reduce discarding early in the trip due to spoilage. Rockfish are an important contribution to overall revenue, and this rule change would allow more fishers to sell a larger percentage of their catch and to better sell their rockfish in direct-to-consumer markets. Buyers have also commented that, with this rule change, they expect to be able to sell more of the rockfish they receive from fishers.

**Citation of rules affected by this order:**

- New:
- Repealed:
- Amended: WAC 220-353-050 Possession of food fish and shellfish—Identification—Commercial.
- Suspended:

**Statutory authority for adoption:** RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.12.045, 77.04.055, and 77.12.047

**Other authority:**

**PERMANENT RULE (Including Expedited Rule Making)**

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 23-04-094 on January 31, 2023 (date).  
Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version:

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

Name: Corey Niles  
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**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	___	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	<u>1</u>	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, Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Signature:**



**WAC 220-353-050 Possession of food fish and shellfish—Identification—Commercial.** (1) It is unlawful to possess any food fish or shellfish in a condition where the species, length, weight, or sex cannot be determined if a species, species group or category, length, weight, or sex limit is prescribed for that species on a vessel engaging in commercial fishing or that has commercially caught fish aboard, except:

(a) It is permissible to possess fish or shellfish legally taken for commercial purposes, landed, and properly accounted for on a completed fish receiving ticket;

(b) It is permissible to possess, transport through the waters of the state, or land dressed sablefish;

(c) It is permissible to possess, transport through the waters of the Pacific Ocean, or land dressed salmon caught during a legal commercial salmon troll fishery, provided that frozen dressed Chinook salmon are 21 1/2 inches or more in length and frozen dressed coho salmon are 12 inches or more in length, measured from the midpoint of the clavicle arch to the fork of the tail;

(d) It is permissible to possess, transport through the waters of the Pacific Ocean, or land dressed halibut if allowed by International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) rules and such fish meet any IPHC size requirements so long as halibut is landed with the heads still attached; (~~and~~)

(e) It is permissible to possess, transport through the waters of the Pacific Ocean, or land dressed lingcod when taken during a lawful commercial fishery; and

(f) It is permissible to possess, transport through the waters of the Pacific Ocean, or land dressed rockfish if authorized by a permit issued by the director and in accordance with the permit's terms and conditions.

(2) Violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor under RCW 77.15.550, Violation of commercial fishing area or time—Penalty.

(3) "Dressed fish" is defined as provided in WAC 220-350-050.