



# RULE-MAKING ORDER EMERGENCY RULE ONLY

## CR-103E (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.350 and 34.05.360)

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

DATE: August 30, 2023

TIME: 5:40 PM

WSR 23-18-049

**Agency:** Department of Fish and Wildlife (Order 23-185)

**Effective date of rule:**

**Emergency Rules**

- Immediately upon filing.
- Later (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**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-making is to provide for Treaty Indian fishing opportunity in the Columbia River while protecting salmon listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. This rule-making implements federal court orders governing Washington's relationship with Treaty Indian Tribes and federal law governing Washington's relationship with Oregon.

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

- New:
- Repealed: WAC 220-359-02000V
- Amended: WAC 220-359-020
- Suspended:

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

**Other authority:** *United States v. Oregon*, Civil No. 68-513-KI (D. Or.), Order Adopting 2018-2027 *United States v. Oregon* Management Agreement (February 26, 2018) (Doc. No. 2607-1). *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.

**Reasons for this finding:** This rule extends treaty commercial sales for the Columbia River mainstem Zone 6 fall-season gillnet fisheries. This rule is consistent with actions of the Columbia River Compact on July 18, August 16, and August 30, 2023. Conforms state rules with tribal rules. The general public welfare is protected with the immediate opening of non-treaty buyers purchasing fish from treaty fisheries. This harvest opportunity allows for the tribal use and public access to the resource as well as the maintenance of sustainable fish populations. There is insufficient time to promulgate permanent regulations.

The Yakama, Warm Springs, Umatilla, and Nez Perce Indian Tribes have treaty fishing rights in the Columbia River and inherent sovereign authority to regulate their fisheries. Washington and Oregon also have some authority to regulate fishing by treaty Indians in the Columbia River, authority that the states exercise jointly under the Congressionally-ratified Columbia River Compact. *Sohappy v. Smith*, 302 F. Supp. 899 (D. Or. 1969). The Tribes and the States adopt parallel regulations for Treaty Indian fisheries under the supervision of the federal courts. A court order sets the current parameters. *United States v. Oregon*, Civil No. 68 513 KI (D. Or.), Order Adopting 2018-2027 *United States v. Oregon* Management Agreement (February 26, 2018) (Doc. No. 2607-1). Some salmon and steelhead stocks in the Columbia River are listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act. On February 23, 2018, 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 the fisheries as described in the 2018-2027 U.S. v. Oregon Management Agreement.

Columbia River fisheries are monitored very closely to ensure consistency with court orders and Endangered Species Act guidelines. Because conditions change rapidly, the fisheries are managed almost exclusively by emergency rule. As required by court order, the Washington and Oregon Departments of Fish and Wildlife convene public hearings and invite tribal participation when considering proposals for new emergency rules affecting treaty fishing rights. *Sohappy*, 302 F. Supp. at 912. WDFW and ODFW then adopt regulations reflecting agreements reached.

**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	<u>1</u>	Amended	___	Repealed	<u>1</u>
Federal rules or standards:	New	<u>1</u>	Amended	___	Repealed	<u>1</u>
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	<u>1</u>	Amended	___	Repealed	<u>1</u>

**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	<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:**

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

**Date Adopted:** August 30, 2023

**Name:** Kelly Susewind

**Title:** Director

**Signature:**

## NEW SECTION

### **WAC 220-359-02000W Columbia River salmon seasons above Bonneville Dam.**

Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-359-010, WAC 220-359-020, WAC 220-359-030, and WAC 220-359-090, effective immediately, until further notice, it is unlawful for a person to take or possess salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, shad, carp, catfish, walleye, bass, or yellow perch taken for commercial purposes in Columbia River Salmon Management and Catch Reporting Areas 1F, 1G, and 1H. However, those individuals possessing treaty fishing rights under the Yakima, Warm Springs, Umatilla, and Nez Perce treaties may fish for salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, shad, carp, catfish, walleye, bass, or yellow perch under the following provisions:

- (1) Open Areas: SMCRA 1F, 1G, 1H (Zone 6)
  - (a) Season: Immediately, through 6:00 PM September 1, 2023, and 6:00 AM September 4 through 6:00 PM September 8, 2023:
  - (b) Gear: Set and Drift Gill nets with an 8-inch minimum mesh size.
  - (c) Allowable sale: Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool and sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools may be kept for subsistence purposes.
  - (d) Standard sanctuaries applicable to gillnet gear. The standard Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary is in place.
- (2) Open Areas: SMCRA 1F, 1G, 1H (Zone 6)
  - (a) Season: Immediately, until further notice.
  - (b) Gear: Hoop nets/bag nets, dip nets, and rod and reel with hook and line.
  - (c) Allowable sale: Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes. Sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool and sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day pools may be kept for subsistence purposes.
  - (d) Standard river mouth and dam sanctuary closures remain in place for this gear.
- (3) Open Areas: SMCRA 1E (area defined in tribal/state MOUs/MOAs)
  - (a) Season: Immediately, until further notice. Only during days and times opened under tribal rule.
  - (b) Gear: Hook and line and/or platform gear identified in tribal rules.
  - (c) Allowable sale: Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be retained in fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam. Sales of fish are not authorized on COE property downstream of Bonneville Dam; fish must be transported elsewhere for sale. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.
- (4) Open Areas: Wind River, Drano Lake, and Klickitat River.
  - (a) Season: Immediately, until further notice, and only during those days and hours when the areas are open under lawfully enacted Yakama Nation tribal subsistence fishery regulations for enrolled Yakama Nation members.
  - (b) Gear: Hoop Nets/Bag Nets, Dip Nets, and Rod and reel with hook and Line. Gillnets may only be used in Drano Lake.
  - (c) Allowable sales: Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Fish landed

during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.  
Sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length may be kept for subsistence.

- (5) 24-hour quick reporting is required for Washington wholesale dealers for all areas as provided in WAC 220-352-315, except that all landings from treaty fisheries described above must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket (not 24-hours after the period concludes).
- (6) Fish caught during the open period may be sold after the period concludes.

## REPEALER

The following section of the Washington Administrative Code is repealed:

WAC 220-359-02000V Columbia River salmon seasons above Bonneville Dam. (23-168)