



# 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: September 07, 2023

TIME: 4:37 PM

WSR 23-19-013

**Agency:** Department of Fish and Wildlife (Order 23-194)

**Effective date of rule:**

**Emergency Rules**

- Immediately upon filing.
- Later (specify) September 8, 2023

**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 emergency rule is to open Chinook retention in lower Columbia River recreational salmon fisheries, from the mouth to the west end of Puget Island.

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

- New:
- Repealed:
- Amended: WAC 220-312-060
- Suspended:

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

**Other authority:**

**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:** Current in-season catch and stock composition projections indicate that sufficient Chinook ESA-impacts remain available. Minimal ESA-listed Chinook are expected to be handled downstream of the west end of Puget Island and allows for additional Chinook retention in this area. Staff will continue to monitor progress of ongoing fisheries, with an expectation to manage within the allowable ESA impact rate and per Washington Fish and Wildlife Policy C-3630. This rule conforms Washington state rules with Oregon state rules and is consistent with Compact Action on September 7, 2023.

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 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. 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.

There is insufficient time to promulgate permanent rules.

**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	1	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:** September 7, 2023

**Name:** Kelly Susewind

**Title:** Director

**Signature:**



## NEW SECTION

### **WAC 220-312-06000U Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules—Columbia River.**

Effective September 8 through December 31, 2023, the provisions of WAC 220-312-060 regarding recreational salmon and steelhead seasons from a true north-south line through Buoy 10 upstream to the west end of Puget Island, shall be modified during the dates listed and as described below. All year-round Closed Waters areas remain in effect. Other provisions of WAC 220-312-060 not addressed herein remain in effect unless otherwise amended by emergency rule:

**From a true north-south line through Buoy 10 upstream to a line at the west end of Puget Island projected from green navigation marker 39 on the Washington bank to green navigation marker 41, then to red navigation marker 42, and terminating at red navigation marker 44A on the Oregon bank:**

- (a) Effective September 8 through September 30, 2023: Salmon and steelhead: Daily limit 3 adult salmon including no more than 1 Chinook. Release all salmon and steelhead other than Chinook and hatchery coho.
- (b) Effective October 1 through October 31, 2023: Salmon and steelhead: Daily limit 6. Up to 3 adults including no more than 1 Chinook may be retained. Release all salmon and steelhead other than Chinook and hatchery coho.
- (c) Effective November 1 through December 31, 2023: Salmon and steelhead: Daily limit 6. Up to 3 adults including no more than 1 Chinook and no more than 2 hatchery steelhead may be retained. Release all salmon and steelhead other than Chinook, hatchery coho and hatchery steelhead.