

**Concise Explanatory Statement (CES)**  
**Amending Coastal Recreational Bottomfish Rules**

**Rules amended as part of this rule making:**

WAC 220-314-020 Possession limits—Bottomfish

**A. Reasons for adopting the rules:**

This is an Expedited rule project that amends one regulation in **WAC 220-314-020 (Possession limits—Bottomfish)** and concerns the change in the number of canary rockfish that can be harvested as part of the coastal recreational bottomfish fishery. The purpose of this rule change is to amend the rule affecting the coastal recreational bottomfish fishery so that it is consistent with regulations recently adopted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council and National Marine Fisheries Service.

The rule change limits the daily possession of canary rockfish to five (5) fish in the coastal (i.e., Marine Areas 1 through 4), recreational bottomfish fishery to reduce total catch consistent with reductions in state specific harvest guidelines for 2025. The coastal recreational bottomfish fishery season opens the second Saturday in March and closes the third Saturday in October.

This rule change conforms state regulations to regulations adopted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) 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 through meetings sponsored by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

**B. Difference between the text of the proposed rules and the text of the rules as adopted:**

None

**C. Summary of comments and WDFW response and consideration for the comments:**

One individual submitted a comment during the expedited rulemaking process; however, the comment did not directly address the proposed change to the daily limit for canary rockfish. Instead, it raised a broader concern about recreational bottomfish management, specifically questioning why Washington's regulations are not aligned with Oregon's in the Columbia River region. In response, WDFW staff provided an explanation to the commenter via email outlining why recreational fishery rules may differ between the two states.

While the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) strive to align recreational bottomfish regulations where feasible, differences arise for several reasons. First, each state must manage its fisheries in accordance with federally established, state-specific harvest guidelines, which means the allowable catch—or "quota"—for a given species may vary between Washington and Oregon. Second, each state employs management strategies that reflect its policies, stakeholder input,

monitoring capabilities, and funding structures. For example, Oregon tends to rely more heavily on inseason adjustments, such as modifying daily limits, to remain within harvest guidelines while maintaining a year-round season. In contrast, Washington typically sets a shorter fixed season (from the second Saturday in March through the third Saturday in October) and makes fewer inseason changes.

Coordination with Oregon is a priority for WDFW bottomfish managers and this comment will be included in considerations during future regulation discussions.