



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: January 02, 2025

TIME: 10:12 AM

WSR 25-02-122

Agency: Department of Fish and Wildlife (Order 24-285)

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: This emergency rule is needed to set recreational fishing closure dates for Grays Harbor and central coast tributaries.

Citation of rules affected by this order:

New:
Repealed: WAC 220-312-02000Q
Amended: WAC 220-312-020
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: This emergency rule will provide additional protection for wild steelhead stock by closing fisheries during the peak of wild steelhead migration. Although there has been a recent increase in coastal steelhead stocks, returns are still below long-term averages and a precautionary approach to steelhead management is necessary. The rules contained in this filing are expected to result in a reduction of wild steelhead encounters relative to permanent rules in place.

Enacting these rules follows an extensive public engagement process, which included a two-part virtual town hall series during the fall 2024. Hundreds of people joined WDFW fishery managers during these virtual meetings, and many provided feedback on the Department's coastal steelhead management web page through an online portal.

Tribal co-managers along the coast have also taken similar steps alongside the Department to advance recovery of wild steelhead.

WDFW continues to operate under its Statewide Steelhead Management Plan, which requires the Department to prioritize the sustainability of wild coastal steelhead runs by focusing on healthy levels of abundance, productivity, diversity, and distribution.

There is insufficient time to adopt 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	1
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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: January 2, 2025

Name: Amy Windrope for Kelly Susewind

Title: Director

Signature:



NEW SECTION

WAC 220-312-02000S Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules – Coast.

Effective immediately, through April 30, 2025, the following provisions of WAC 220-312-020, regarding open fishing seasons, gear and hook restrictions, and trout retention for central coast and Grays Harbor tributaries shall be modified as described in the areas and during the time periods contained herein. All areas described as Closed Waters in WAC 220-312-020 remain Closed Waters. All other provisions of WAC 220-312-020 not addressed in the areas and during the time periods described herein, or unless otherwise amended by emergency rule, remain in effect:

(1) Chehalis River (Grays Harbor Co.):

- (a) From the mouth upstream to the confluence of Skookumchuck River:
 - (i) Effective immediately, through February 28, 2025:
 - (A) All species: Selective Gear Rules in effect, except only 1 single-point barbless hook is allowed.
 - (B) Trout: Statewide minimum size and daily limit, except cutthroat trout minimum size 14 inches. Release wild rainbow trout.
 - (ii) Effective March 1 through April 15, 2025: Closed waters.
- (b) From the confluence of Skookumchuck River upstream, including all forks: Effective immediately through April 15, 2025: Closed Waters.

(2) Clearwater River (Jefferson Co.), from the mouth to Snahapish River:

- (a) Effective immediately, through February 28, 2025:
 - (i) All species: Selective Gear Rules in effect, except only 1 single-point barbless hook is allowed.
 - (ii) Trout: Statewide minimum size and daily limit, except cutthroat trout minimum size 14 inches. Release wild rainbow trout.
- (b) Effective March 1 through April 15, 2025: Closed waters.

(3) Cloquallum Creek (Grays Harbor/Mason Co.): Effective immediately, through February 28, 2025: Closed waters.

(4) Copalis River (Grays Harbor Co.): Effective immediately, through February 28, 2025:

- (a) All species: Selective Gear Rules in effect, except only 1 single-point barbless hook is allowed.
- (b) Trout: Statewide minimum size and daily limit, except cutthroat trout minimum size 14 inches. Release wild rainbow trout.

(5) Elk Creek (Lewis/Pacific Co.): Effective immediately, through March 31, 2025: Closed waters.

- (6) **Elk River (Grays Harbor Co.):** Effective immediately, through February 28, 2025: Closed waters.
- (7) **Hoquiam River including West Fork (Grays Harbor Co.):** Effective immediately, through February 28, 2025: Closed waters.
- (8) **Hoquiam River, East Fork (Grays Harbor Co.):** Effective immediately, through February 28, 2025: Closed waters.
- (9) **Humptulips River (Grays Harbor Co.):**
- (a) From the mouth to Highway 101 Bridge including all channels, sloughs, and interconnected waterways:
 - (i) Effective immediately, through February 2, 2025:
 - (A) All species: Selective Gear Rules in effect, except only 1 single-point barbless hook is allowed.
 - (B) Trout: Statewide minimum size and daily limit, except cutthroat trout minimum size 14 inches. Release wild rainbow trout.
 - (ii) Effective February 3 through March 31, 2024: Closed waters.
 - (b) From Highway 101 Bridge to confluence of East and West forks: Effective immediately, through March 31, 2025: Closed waters.
- (10) **Humptulips River, West Fork (Grays Harbor Co.):** Effective immediately, through March 31, 2025: Closed waters.
- (11) **Johns River (Grays Harbor Co.):** Effective immediately, through February 28, 2025: Closed waters.
- (12) **Moclips River (Grays Harbor Co.),** from the mouth to Quinault Indian Reservation boundary: Effective immediately, through February 28, 2025:
- (a) All species: Selective Gear Rules in effect, except only 1 single-point barbless hook is allowed.
 - (b) Trout: Statewide minimum size and daily limit, except cutthroat trout minimum size 14 inches. Release wild rainbow trout.
- (13) **Newaukum River, including South Fork (Lewis Co.):** Effective immediately, through March 31, 2025: Closed waters.
- (14) **Newaukum River, Middle Fork (Lewis Co.):** Effective immediately, through March 31, 2025: Closed waters.
- (15) **Newaukum River, North Fork (Lewis Co.):** Effective immediately, through March 31, 2025: Closed waters.

(16) Quinault River (Grays Harbor/Jefferson Co.), from the mouth at upper end of Quinault Lake upstream to Olympic National Park boundary:

- (a) Effective immediately, through March 31, 2025:
 - (i) All species: Selective Gear Rules in effect, except only 1 single-point barbless hook is allowed.
 - (ii) Trout: Statewide minimum size and daily limit, except cutthroat trout minimum size 14 inches. Release wild rainbow trout.
- (b) Effective April 1 through April 15, 2025: Closed waters.

(17) Salmon River (Jefferson Co.): Effective immediately, through February 28, 2025:

- (a) All species: Selective Gear Rules in effect, except only 1 single-point barbless hook is allowed.
- (b) Trout: Statewide minimum size and daily limit, except cutthroat trout minimum size 14 inches. Release wild rainbow trout.

(18) Satsop River and East Fork (Grays Harbor Co.), from mouth to Bingham Creek Dam:

- (a) Effective immediately, through February 28, 2025:
 - (i) All species: Selective Gear Rules in effect, except only 1 single-point barbless hook is allowed.
 - (ii) Trout: Statewide minimum size and daily limit, except cutthroat trout minimum size 14 inches. Release wild rainbow trout.
- (b) Effective March 1 through March 31, 2025: Closed waters.

(19) Satsop River, Middle Fork (Grays Harbor Co.): Effective immediately, through February 28, 2025: Closed waters.

(20) Satsop River, West Fork (Grays Harbor Co.): Effective immediately, through February 28, 2025: Closed waters.

(21) Skookumchuck River (Lewis/Thurston Co.): From mouth to 100' below outlet of TransAlta WDFW steelhead rearing pond located at the base of Skookumchuck Dam:

- (a) Effective immediately, through February 28, 2025:
 - (i) All species: Selective Gear Rules in effect, except only 1 single-point barbless hook is allowed.
 - (ii) Trout: Statewide minimum size and daily limit, except cutthroat trout minimum size 14 inches. Release wild rainbow trout.
- (b) Effective March 1 through April 30, 2025: Closed waters.

(22) Stevens Creek (Grays Harbor Co.):

- (a) From the mouth to cable crossing downstream of WDFW hatchery outlet:
 - (i) Effective immediately, through February 2, 2025:

- (A) All species: Selective Gear Rules in effect, except only 1 single-point barbless hook is allowed.
 - (B) Trout: Statewide minimum size and daily limit, except cutthroat trout minimum size 14 inches. Release wild rainbow trout.
- (ii) Effective February 3 through March 31, 2024: Closed waters.
- (b) From WDFW hatchery outlet to Highway 101 Bridge: Effective immediately, through March 31, 2025: Closed waters.
- (23) Van Winkle Creek (Grays Harbor Co.):** Effective immediately, through January 31, 2025: Closed waters.
- (24) Wishkah River (Grays Harbor Co.):** Effective immediately, through February 28, 2025: Closed waters.
- (25) Wynoochee River (Grays Harbor Co.):**
 - (a) From the mouth to 7400 Line Bridge:
 - (i) Effective immediately, through February 28, 2025:
 - (A) All species: Selective Gear Rules in effect, except only 1 single-point barbless hook is allowed.
 - (B) Trout: Statewide minimum size and daily limit, except cutthroat trout minimum size 14 inches. Release wild rainbow trout.
 - (ii) Effective March 1 through March 31, 2025: Closed waters.
 - (b) From 7400 Line Bridge upstream, effective immediately through March 31, 2025: Closed waters.

REPEALER

The following section of Washington Administrative Code is repealed, effective immediately:
WAC 220-312-02000Q Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules – Coast. (24-275)