



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 17, 2025

TIME: 3:12 PM

WSR 25-03-104

Agency: Department of Fish and Wildlife (Order 25-09)

Effective date of rule:

Emergency Rules

- ☐ Immediately upon filing.
☒ Later (specify) January 20, 2025

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 opens commercial smelt fisheries in the Columbia River.

Citation of rules affected by this order:

New:
Repealed: WAC 220-358-06000H
Amended: WAC 220-358-060
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: This rule sets a limited Columbia River commercial fishery for eulachon smelt. The regulation is consistent with fisheries allowed while in Harvest Phase 2 described in the "Washington and Oregon Eulachon Management Plan 2nd Edition" for the Columbia River. The expected return of eulachon to the Columbia River in 2025 is expected to be slightly lower in magnitude to the 2024 return, but similar to the 10-year average. The fishery serves as an important index to monitor run strength and timing and to collect biological data. The general public welfare is protected with the immediate and limited duration opening of the commercial smelt fishing in the mainstem Columbia River. This limited research-level harvest opportunity allows for maintenance and monitoring of a sustainable fish population. There is insufficient time to adopt permanent regulations.

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 17, 2025	Signature: 
Name: Kelly Susewind	
Title: Director	

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-358-06000H Commercial Fisheries--Columbia River below Bonneville Dam--Smelt.

Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-358-060, the Columbia River and Washington tributaries are closed to fishing for eulachon smelt except as provided herein:

Open Dates: January 20 through March 13, 2025: Open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays only, from 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (12-hour periods).

Open Area: Columbia River – Salmon Management and Catch Reporting Areas 1A, 1B, 1C. (Areas defined in WAC 220-301-010.)

Gear: It is unlawful to use anything other than gillnets. Gillnets must meet the following specifications per WAC 220-358-060: mesh size not to exceed 2 inches stretch measure; not to exceed 1,500 feet in length along the cork line.
Use of monofilament nets is permissible.

Allowable sales: Smelt.

Other: 24-hour quick-reporting is required for Washington wholesale dealers, as provided in WAC. 220-352-315.

Multi-Net Rule: Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater.

REPEALER

The following section of the Washington Administrative Code is repealed, effective March 15, 2024:

WAC 220-358-06000H Commercial Fisheries--Columbia River below Bonneville Dam--Smelt.