



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 21, 2025

TIME: 12:33 PM

WSR 25-03-130

Agency: Department of Fish and Wildlife (Order 25-11)

Effective date of rule:

Emergency Rules

- ☐ Immediately upon filing.
☒ Later (specify) February 1, 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 recreational steelhead seasons in portions of Skagit and Sauk rivers.

Citation of rules affected by this order:

New:
Repealed:
Amended: WAC 220-312-040
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: The Skagit River wild Steelhead preseason forecast is 7,019 steelhead. In accordance with the Skagit steelhead Resource Management Plan, the expected runsize is sufficient to offer catch-and-release opportunity while staying within conservation guidelines.


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Federal statute:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Federal rules or standards:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____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	New	_____	Amended _____ Repealed _____
The number of sections adopted on the agency's own initiative:			
	New	1	Amended _____ Repealed _____
The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:			
	New	_____	Amended _____ Repealed _____
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 21, 2025		Signature: 	
Name: Amy Windrope for Kelly Susewind			
Title: Director			

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-312-04000F Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules—Puget Sound.

Effective February 1 through April 15, 2025, the following provisions of WAC 220-312-040 regarding steelhead seasons for the Skagit River and the Sauk River from the mouth to the Darrington Bridge, shall be as described below. All other provisions of WAC 220-312-040 not addressed herein, or unless otherwise amended by emergency rule, remain in effect:

- (1) Skagit River (Skagit County): From the Dalles Bridge in the town of Concrete to the Cascade River Road Bridge in Marblemount:

Steelhead open daily:

- (a) Catch and release, except daily limit 2 hatchery steelhead;
- (b) Selective Gear Rules in effect;
- (c) Night closure in effect;
- (d) Fishing from a vessel under power is prohibited;
- (e) All gamefish species other than steelhead are closed to fishing for or retaining.

- (2) Sauk River (Skagit/Snohomish counties): From the mouth to the Darrington Bridge:

Steelhead open daily:

- (a) Catch and release, except daily limit 2 hatchery steelhead;
- (b) Selective Gear Rules in effect;
- (c) Night closure in effect;
- (d) Fishing from a vessel equipped with any motor is prohibited;
- (e) All gamefish species other than steelhead are closed to fishing for or retaining.