



# 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: February 25, 2025

TIME: 4:58 PM

WSR 25-06-031

**Agency:** Department of Fish and Wildlife (Order 25-30)

**Effective date of rule:**

**Emergency Rules**

- ☐ Immediately upon filing.  
☒ Later (specify) February 26, 2025

**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 rule-making is to provide for Treaty Indian fishing opportunity in the Columbia River while protecting salmon listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. This rule-making implements federal court orders governing Washington's relationship with Treaty Indian Tribes and federal law governing Washington's relationship with Oregon.

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

New:  
Repealed: WAC 220-359-02000P  
Amended: WAC 220-359-020  
Suspended:

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

**Other authority:** *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). *Northwest Gillnetters Ass'n v. Sandison*, 95 Wn.2d 638, 628 P.2d 800 (1981); Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission policies concerning Columbia River fisheries; 40 Stat. 515 (Columbia River Compact).

**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 treaty commercial sales for non-treaty buyers in the 2025 Columbia River mainstem Zone 6 winter sturgeon setline fisheries above Bonneville Dam. This rule is consistent with actions of the Columbia River Compact on January 8, January 16, January 30, February 10, and February 25, 2025. Conforms state rules with tribal rules. The general public welfare is protected with the immediate opening of non-treaty buyers purchasing fish from treaty fisheries. This harvest opportunity allows for the tribal use and public access to the resource as well as the maintenance of sustainable fish populations. There is insufficient time to adopt permanent regulations.

The Yakama, Warm Springs, Umatilla, and Nez Perce Indian Tribes have treaty fishing rights in the Columbia River and inherent sovereign authority to regulate their fisheries. Washington and Oregon also have some authority to regulate fishing by treaty Indians in the Columbia River, authority that the states exercise jointly under the Congressionally-ratified Columbia River Compact. *Sohappy v. Smith*, 302 F. Supp. 899 (D. Or. 1969). The Tribes and the States adopt parallel regulations for Treaty Indian fisheries under the supervision of the federal courts. 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.

Columbia River fisheries are monitored very closely to ensure consistency with court orders and Endangered Species Act guidelines. Because conditions change rapidly, the fisheries are managed almost exclusively by emergency rule. As required by court order, the Washington and Oregon Departments of Fish and Wildlife convene public hearings and invite tribal participation when considering proposals for new emergency rules affecting treaty fishing rights. Sohappy, 302 F. Supp. at 912. WDFW and ODFW then adopt regulations reflecting agreements reached.

**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	<u>1</u>	Amended	_____	Repealed	<u>1</u>
Federal rules or standards:	New	<u>1</u>	Amended	_____	Repealed	<u>1</u>
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	<u>1</u>	Amended	_____	Repealed	<u>1</u>

**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	<u>1</u>	Amended	_____	Repealed	<u>1</u>
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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:** February 25, 2025

**Name:** Kelly Susewind

**Title:** Director

**Signature:**



## NEW SECTION

### **WAC 220-359-02000Q Columbia River salmon seasons above Bonneville Dam.**

Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-359-010, WAC 220-359-020, WAC 220-359-030, and WAC 220-359-090, effective February 26 through March 21, 2025, it is unlawful for a person to take or possess salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, shad, carp, catfish, walleye, bass, or yellow perch taken for commercial purposes in Columbia River Salmon Management and Catch Reporting Areas (SMRCA) 1F, 1G, and 1H. However, those individuals possessing treaty fishing rights under the Yakima, Warm Springs, Umatilla, and Nez Perce treaties may fish for salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, shad, carp, catfish, walleye, bass, or yellow perch under the following provisions:

- (1) Open Areas: SMCRA 1F (Bonneville Pool)
  - (a) Season: 6AM Wednesday, February 26, 2025, until 6 PM Thursday, February 27, 2025.
  - (b) Gear: Setline gear only.
  - (c) Allowable sales: Sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length caught in Bonneville Pool, may be sold or kept for subsistence purposes.
  - (d) Standard river mouth and dam sanctuary closures remain in place for this gear.
- (2) Open Areas: SMCRA 1G (The Dalles Pool)
  - (a) Season: 6AM Monday, March 3, 2025, until 6PM Tuesday, March 4, 2025.
  - (b) Gear: Setline gear only.
  - (c) Allowable sales: Sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length caught in The Dalles Pool, may be sold or kept for subsistence purposes.
  - (d) Standard river mouth and dam sanctuary closures remain in place for this gear.
- (3) Open Areas: SMCRA 1F, 1G, 1H (Zone 6)
  - (a) Season: Immediately, until 6 PM Friday, March 21, 2025.
  - (b) Gear: Hoop nets/bag nets, dip nets, and rod and reel with hook and line.
  - (c) Allowable sales: Sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool and from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day pools may be kept for subsistence purposes. Sturgeon within the legal-size limits and caught in the platform and hook and line fishery may only be sold if caught during the open period and open Pool of an open setline fishery. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.
  - (d) Standard river mouth and dam sanctuary closures remain in place for this gear.
- (4) 24-hour quick reporting is required for Washington wholesale dealers for all areas as provided in WAC 220-352-315, except that all landings from treaty fisheries described above must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket (not 24-hours after the period concludes).
- (5) Fish caught during the open period may be sold after the period concludes.

## REPEALER

The following section of the Washington Administration Code is repealed, effective February 26, 2025:

WAC 220-359-02000P Columbia River salmon seasons above Bonneville Dam. (25-20)