



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: May 23, 2025

TIME: 7:47 AM

WSR 25-12-021

Agency: Department of Fish and Wildlife (Order 25-88)

Effective date of rule:

Emergency Rules

- ☐ Immediately upon filing.
☒ Later (specify) May 24, 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 is needed to open game fish seasons in Snoqualmie River, North Fork and South Fork Skykomish River.

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Repealed: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: This emergency rule is necessary to open recreational game fish seasons in Snoqualmie River and North and South fork Skykomish River.

These game fish seasons were initially closed in 2022 to protect summer Chinook, which had extremely low returns that year. 2025 expected returns are sufficient to allow this limited game fish opportunity. Summer Chinook presence in these areas, during this time period, is low and coupled with the gear restrictions implemented with this rule will impose very limited to no impact on returning summer Chinook.

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Federal statute:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Federal rules or standards:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____

Recently enacted state statutes: New ____ Amended ____ Repealed ____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: May 22, 2025

Name: Kelly Susewind

Title: Director

Signature:



NEW SECTION

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

Effective May 24 through July 13, 2025, provisions of WAC 220-312-040 regarding game fish seasons for Snoqualmie and North Fork and South Fork Skykomish rivers shall be modified as described in this section. All other provisions of WAC 220-312-040 not addressed in this section, or unless otherwise amended by emergency rule remain in effect:

- (1) **Skykomish River, North Fork (Snohomish County):** From the mouth to 1000 feet downstream of Bear Creek Falls:

Game fish open May 24 through July 13;

- (a) Catch and release.
- (b) Selective gear rules in effect.
- (c) Anti-snagging rule in effect.

- (2) **Skykomish River, South Fork (Snohomish County):** From Sunset Falls upstream:

Game fish open May 24 through July 13;

- (a) Statewide minimum size and daily limits, except cutthroat and wild rainbow trout minimum size 14"
- (b) Selective gear rules in effect.
- (c) Anti-snagging rule in effect.

- (3) **Snoqualmie River (Snohomish County):** From Hwy. 202 Bridge at Fall City to Snoqualmie Falls:

Game fish open May 24 through July 13;

- (a) Statewide minimum size and daily limits, except cutthroat and wild rainbow trout minimum size 14"
- (b) Selective gear rules in effect.
- (c) Anti-snagging rule in effect.