WSR 24-17-124 EMERGENCY RULES DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

[Order 24-159—Filed August 19, 2024, 4:24 p.m., effective August 21, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 21, 2024.

Purpose: The purpose of this emergency rule is to close recreational coastal salmon fishing in Marine Area 3.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 220-313-07500Z; and amending WAC 220-313-075.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047.

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.

Reasons for this Finding: The purpose of this rule is to close recreational salmon fishing in Area 3. Coho catch for Area 3 is projected to be near the quota for the area by August 20, and would likely be exceeded if the fishery remained open. These rules are adopted at the recommendation of the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, in accordance with preseason fishing plans, and have been adopted for federal waters by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 1.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0. Date Adopted: August 19, 2024.

> Amy H. Windrope for Kelly Susewind Director

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-313-07500A Pacific Ocean salmon—Seasons—Closed areas. Effective August 21 through September 30, 2024, the provisions of WAC 220-313-075 regarding recreational salmon seasons for Marine Areas 1 through 4 shall be as described below. All other provisions of WAC 220-313-075 not addressed herein remain in effect unless otherwise amended:

(1) Catch Record Card Area 1:

(a) Open August 21 through August 22, 2024:

(i) Daily limit of 2 salmon including no more than one Chinook.

(ii) Release wild coho.

(iii) Chinook minimum length 22 inches.

(iv) Coho minimum length 16 inches.

(b) August 23, 2024, until further notice: Closed to fishing for salmon. It is unlawful to possess salmon on board a vessel, including in transit.

(2) Catch Record Card Area 2:

Open August 19 through September 15, 2024:

(a) Daily limit of 2 salmon including no more than one Chinook.

(b) Release wild coho.

(c) Chinook minimum length 22 inches.

(d) Coho minimum length 16 inches.

(e) Grays Harbor Control Zone is closed. See WAC 220-306-040 for area definition.

(3) **Catch Record Card Area 3:** Closed to fishing for salmon. It is unlawful to possess salmon on board a vessel, including in transit.

(4) Catch Record Card Area 4:

Open August 19 through September 15, 2024:

(a) Daily limit of 2 salmon.

(b) Release chum and wild coho.

(c) Chinook minimum length 24 inches.

(d) Coho minimum length 16 inches.

(e) No chinook retention allowed in waters east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line.

REPEALER

The following section of the Washington Administrative Code is repealed, effective August 21, 2024:

WAC 220-313-07500Z Pacific Ocean salmon—Seasons—Closed areas. (24-157)