

WSR 23-22-023  
EMERGENCY RULES  
DEPARTMENT OF  
FISH AND WILDLIFE

[Order 23-235—Filed October 20, 2023, 12:08 p.m., effective October 23, 2023]

Effective Date of Rule: October 23, 2023.

Purpose: The purpose of this emergency rule is to temporarily open fishing seasons for the Skykomish River.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 220-312-04000W; and amending WAC 220-312-040.

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: This rule is necessary to open fishing seasons in the Skykomish River.

As the end of the Chinook spawn timing approaches, enough Chinook encounters remain to allow for a limited salmon fishery, targeting coho, in this area.

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Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 1.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.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: October 20, 2023.

Kelly Susewind  
Director

NEW SECTION

**WAC 220-312-04000Y Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules—Puget Sound.** Effective immediately, until further notice, provisions of WAC 220-312-040 regarding recreational fishing seasons for the Snohomish River system shall be modified 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) Effective immediately, until further notice, the following waters are closed to fishing for or possessing food fish or game fish:
  - (a) **Cherry Creek**, from mouth upstream
  - (b) **Raging River**, from mouth upstream

- (c) **Skykomish River, North Fork**, from mouth upstream
- (d) **Skykomish River, South Fork**, from mouth upstream
- (e) **Snoqualmie River**, from mouth to Snoqualmie Falls
- (f) **Sultan River**, from mouth upstream
- (g) **Tolt River**, from mouth to confluence of North and South forks
- (2) **Skykomish River**, from mouth to confluence of North and South

forks:

- (a) Effective October 23 through October 31, 2023: Salmon: Daily limit 2. Release Chinook and chum. Barbless hooks required.
- (b) Effective November 1, until further notice: Closed to fishing for or possessing food fish or game fish.

(3) **Snohomish River**: From the mouth to the confluence of Skykomish and Snoqualmie rivers:

Effective immediately through October 31, 2023: Salmon: Daily limit 4 including no more than 2 coho. Release Chinook and chum. Use of bait is allowed. Single point barbless hooks required.

(4) **Wallace River**:

(a) From mouth (farthest downstream RR bridge) to 363rd Ave. SE/Reece Rd. (Dike Rd.):

Effective immediately, through October 31, 2023: Salmon daily limit is 4. Release all salmon other than coho and pinks.

(b) From 363rd Ave. SE/Reece Rd. (Dike Rd.) to 200' upstream of water intake of salmon hatchery:

Effective immediately, through November 30, 2023: Salmon daily limit is 4. Release all salmon other than coho and pinks.

REPEALER

The following section of Washington Administrative Code is repealed, effective October 23, 2023:

WAC 220-312-04000W Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules—Puget Sound. (23-230)