

WSR 24-15-094
EMERGENCY RULES
DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE

[Order 24-134—Filed July 19, 2024, 3:09 p.m., effective August 7, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: August 7, 2024.

Purpose: This emergency rule will allow nontreaty commercial fishing opportunities in the Columbia River while protecting fish listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This rule implements federal court orders governing Washington's relationship with treaty Indian tribes, federal law governing Washington's relationship with Oregon, and Washington fish and wildlife commission policy guidance for Columbia River fisheries.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 220-358-030.

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).

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 sets nontreaty commercial fisheries for fall 2024 in the mainstem and select areas. The 2024 nontreaty fall fisheries plan was developed in conjunction with the annual North of Falcon management process. Impacts to nonlocal stocks are expected to be minimal in off channel select areas. This rule implements an emerging commercial fishery with limited participants using purse and beach seine gear in the mainstem Columbia River. These fisheries are consistent with the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement and the associated biological opinion. Conforms Washington state rules with Oregon state rules. Regulation is consistent with compact action of July 18, 2024. This harvest opportunity allows for public access to the resource as well as the maintenance of sustainable fish populations. There is insufficient time to promulgate permanent rules.

Washington and Oregon jointly regulate Columbia River fisheries under the congressionally ratified Columbia River Compact. Four Indian tribes have treaty fishing rights in the Columbia River. The treaties preempt state regulations that fail to allow the tribes an opportunity to take a fair share of the available fish, and the states must manage other fisheries accordingly. *Sohappy v. Smith*, 302 F. Supp. 899 (D. Or. 1969). 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 ESA. 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.

Some Columbia River Basin salmon and steelhead stocks are listed as threatened or endangered under ESA. The Washington and Oregon fish and wildlife commissions have developed policies to guide the implementation of such biological opinions in the states' regulation of nontreaty fisheries.

Columbia River nontreaty fisheries are monitored very closely to ensure compliance with federal court orders, ESA, and commission guidelines. Because conditions change rapidly, the fisheries are managed almost exclusively by emergency rule. Representatives from the Washington (WDFW) and Oregon (ODFW) departments of fish and wildlife convene public hearings and take public testimony when considering proposals for new emergency rules. WDFW and ODFW then adopt regulations reflecting agreements reached.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 1, 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 0.

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: July 19, 2024.

Kelly Susewind
Director

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-358-03000E Columbia River seasons below Bonneville.

Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-358-030, WAC 220-358-040, and WAC 220-335-050, it is unlawful for a person to take or possess salmon, sturgeon, and shad for commercial purposes from Columbia River Salmon Management and Catch Reporting Areas 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E and Select Areas, except during the times and conditions listed below:

(1) Mainstem Gillnet:

Open Dates	Open Days	Open Time	Open Duration
August 7 - August 8	Wednesday (night)	9:00 pm - 6:00 am	9 hrs
August 12 - August 13	Monday (night)	9:00 pm - 6:00 am	9 hrs
August 14 - August 15	Wednesday (night)	9:00 pm - 6:00 am	9 hrs
August 18 - August 19	Sunday (night)	9:00 pm - 6:00 am	9 hrs
August 20 - August 21	Tuesday (night)	9:00 pm - 6:00 am	9 hrs
August 22 - August 23	Thursday (night)	9:00 pm - 6:00 am	9 hrs
August 25 - August 26	Sunday (night)	9:00 pm - 6:00 am	9 hrs
August 27 - August 28	Tuesday (night)	9:00 pm - 6:00 am	9 hrs
August 29 - August 30	Thursday (night)	9:00 pm - 6:00 am	9 hrs

(a) **Area:** Catch Reporting Areas 1E and 1D (Zones 4-5). The deadline at the lower end of Area 1E (Zone 4) is defined as a straight line projected from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the Oregon shore easterly through the green navigation Buoy #1 and continuing to the Washington shore. Sanctuaries: Washougal and Sandy River.

(b) **Gear:** Drift gillnets only. 9-inch minimum mesh size restriction. Multiple net rule NOT in effect, which means nets not authorized for this fishery may not be onboard. Lighted buoys required.

(c) **Allowable Sales:** Salmon (except Chum) and shad.

(2) Emerging Commercial Fishery - Mainstem Seine:

Open Dates	Open Days	Open Time	Open Duration
August 8 - August 30	Monday - Friday	6:00 am - 4:00 pm	10 hrs
September 3 - September 6	Tuesday - Friday	6:00 am - 4:00 pm	10 hrs
September 9 - October 31	Monday - Friday	7:00 am - 5:00 pm	10 hrs

(a) **Area:** Catch Reporting Areas 1A, 1B, and 1C (Zones 1-3). The deadline at the upper end of Area 1C (Zone 3) is defined as a straight line projected from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the Oregon shore easterly through the green navigation Buoy #1 and continuing to the Washington shore. Sanctuaries: Elokomín-B, Cowlitz, Kalama-B, Lewis-B and Select Area commercial fishing sites.

(b) **Gear:** Beach seines or purse seines only. Only one seine net per primary vessel. Mesh size restricted to a 3.5-inch maximum (inside of knot to outside of knot using hand tension stretched measure). Net material to consist of 3-strand nylon; twine size ≥#12. Seines may include a bunt of 1.0-2.0 inch knotless mesh. Net length not to exceed 200 fathoms (NOT including associated lead nets). Net depth not to exceed 200 meshes (approximately 50 feet). Seine and lead lines may not be connected. Lead nets must be retrieved daily. No restrictions on corkline, leadline or use of stringers and slackers. A chafing strip panel consisting of non-monofilament webbing (such as nylon seine web or polyethylene trawl web) is allowed on bottom of net; maximum panel depth is 5-feet. Chafing mesh not to exceed 3.5-inch stretched measure for beach and 5-inch stretched measure for purse. There are no restrictions associated with hangings used to connect the net to the chafing panel or the net or chafing panel to the leadline or corkline. Red corks are required at 25-fathom intervals and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net. Lead net (optional for both gear types). Only one lead net is allowed per fishing operation. Lead nets may not exceed 100 fathoms in length. Lead nets may be constructed of 3-strand nylon webbing, twine size ≥#12, ≤3.5-inch mesh size (inside of knot to outside of knot using hand tension stretched measure) OR nylon or cotton webbing with mesh size ≥14-inches. Lead nets may not be vertically slackened. Seine net and lead net may not be connected. Lead nets must be retrieved daily.

(c) **Allowable Possession and Sales:** Subject to IFQs as defined on individual permits. Except as noted below, allowable sales limited to adipose fin-clipped Chinook, adipose fin-clipped Coho, sockeye, and pink salmon and shad. All legal adult Chinook and legal adult Coho caught must be kept and sold. Adult salmon defined in WAC 220 300-010. Retained Chinook and Coho must have a healed scar at the location of the adipose-clipped fin.

(d) **Handling of Catch:** Hand sorting or use of a knotless dip net is required when sorting fish. All fish must be sorted and/or released prior to removing entire seine from water. Dry sorting not permitted.

(e) **Sort time not to exceed 75 minutes.**

(i) Beach seine - defined as the elapsed time from when the outer towed end of the net first contacts the shore or block until the net is emptied of fish.

(ii) Purse Seine - defined as the elapsed time from when all rings are pursed and out of the water until the net is emptied of fish.

(f) **Observer Program:** Agency observers must be present during all fishing operations.

(3) Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area:

Open Dates	Open Days	Open Time	Open Duration
August 26 - August 30	Monday, Thursday (night)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	12 hrs
September 2 - October 31	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (night)	4:00 pm - 10:00 am	18 hrs

(a) **Area:**

(i) The Tongue Point Select Area is defined as waters of the Columbia River bounded by a line from a regulatory marker on the eastern shore of Tongue Point (midway between the red USCG light "2" at the tip of Tongue Point and the northern-most pier (#8) at the Tongue Point Job Corps facility) to the flashing green USCG light "3" on the rock jetty at the northwest tip of Mott Island, a line from a regulatory marker at the southeast end of Mott Island northeasterly to a regulatory marker on the northwest shore of Lois Island, and a line from a regulatory marker located on the Oregon shore approximately 300 yards northwest of the railroad bridge crossing the John Day River projecting easterly to a regulatory marker on the southwest shore of Lois Island:

(A) If the marker on the eastern shore of Tongue Point is not in place, the downstream boundary is defined by a line projecting from a point (46°12'31.1"N latitude 123°45'34.0"W longitude) on the eastern shore of Tongue Point to the flashing green USCG light "3" on the rock jetty at the northwest tip of Mott Island.

(B) If the marker on the Oregon shore is not in place, the upstream boundary is defined by a line projecting from a point (46°10'57.7"N latitude 123°44'35.3"W longitude) on the Oregon shore approximately 300 yards northwest of the railroad bridge crossing the John Day River projecting easterly to a regulatory marker on Lois Island.

(ii) The South Channel Area is defined as waters of the Columbia River bounded by a line from a regulatory marker on the Oregon shore at John Day Point projecting northeasterly to a regulatory marker on the southwest shore of Lois Island, and a line from a regulatory marker on Settler Point projecting northwesterly to the flashing red USCG light "10" then projecting westerly to the eastern tip of Burnside Island.

(b) **Gear:** Gillnets with a 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction. Maximum net length of 250 fathoms. In the Tongue Point Select Area, the lead line weight may not exceed two pounds per any one fathom; however, unstored gillnets legal for use in South Channel may be onboard.

In the South Channel Select Area, there is no lead line weight limit and attachment of additional weight and anchors directly to the lead line is permitted. Nets not specifically authorized for use may be onboard a vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or

plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater. Nets fished any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the end of the net opposite the boat is required.

(c) **Allowable Sales:** Salmon (except Chum) and shad.

(4) Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Area:

Open Dates	Open Days	Open Time	Open Duration
August 26 - August 30	Monday, Thursday (night)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	12 hrs
September 2 - October 31	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (night)	6:00 pm - 10:00 am	16 hrs

(a) **Area:** The Blind Slough Select Area is defined as waters of Blind Slough and Gnat Creek from a north-south line represented by regulatory markers at the mouth of Blind Slough upstream to a regulatory marker in Gnat Creek located approximately 0.5 miles southeasterly (upstream) of the Barendse Road Bridge. The Knappa Slough Select Area is defined as waters of Knappa Slough, Calendar Slough, and Big Creek Slough bounded to the north (upstream) by a line projecting from a regulatory marker on the eastern shore of Karlson Island to the northernmost regulatory marker at the mouth of Blind Slough and bounded to the west (downstream) by a line projecting southerly from a regulatory marker on the southwestern tip of Karlson Island through regulatory markers on the western tips of Minaker Island to a marker on the Oregon shore. The waters of Knappa Slough within a 100-foot radius of the railroad bridge crossing Big Creek are closed.

(b) **Gear:** Gillnets with a 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction. Maximum net length is 100 fathoms. There is no lead line weight limit and attachment of additional weight and anchors directly to the lead line is permitted. Nets not specifically authorized for use may be on-board a vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater. Nets fished any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the end of the net opposite the boat is required.

(c) **Allowable Sales:** Salmon (except Chum) and shad.

(5) Deep River Select Area:

Open Dates	Open Days	Open Time	Open Duration
September 16 - October 11	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (night)	6:00 pm - 9:00 am	15 hrs
October 14 - October 31	Monday, Wednesday (night)	6:00 pm - 9:00 am	15 hrs
November 4 - November 28	Monday, Wednesday (night)	5:00 pm - 8:00 am	15 hrs

(a) **Area:** The Deep River fishing area includes all waters from West Deep River Road Bridge at the town of Deep River downstream to the mouth defined by a line from USCG navigation marker #16 southwest to a marker on the Washington shore.

(b) **Gear:** Gillnets with a maximum mesh size restriction of 6-inches. Maximum net length is 100 fathoms. No weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed. No nets can be tied off to stationary structures. Nets may not fully cross the navigation channel. It is unlawful to operate in any river, stream or channel any gillnet gear longer

than three-fourths the width of the river, stream, or channel. "River, stream, or channel width" is defined as bank-to-bank, where the water meets the banks, regardless of the time of tide or the water level. This emergency provision shall supersede the permanent regulation and all other regulations that conflict with it. Nets not specifically authorized for use may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater. Nets fished any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted_buoy on the end of the net opposite the boat is required.

(c) **Allowable Sales:** Salmon (except Chum) and shad.

(6) **24-hour quick reporting** is in effect for Washington buyers WAC 220-352-315. Permanent transportation rules in effect. Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210.

(7) **Multi-Net Rule:** Nets not specifically authorized for use in these areas may be onboard a vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater (WAC 220-358-030(2)).

(8) **Lighted Buoys:** Nets that are fished at any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net unless the net is attached to the boat. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the opposite end of the net from the boat is required.

Reviser's note: The typographical errors in the above section occurred in the copy filed by the agency and appear in the Register pursuant to the requirements of RCW 34.08.040.