

WSR 24-21-042
EMERGENCY RULES
DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE

[Order 24-226—Filed October 8, 2024, 3:00 p.m., effective October 9, 2024]

Effective Date of Rule: October 9, 2024.

Purpose: The purpose of this emergency rule is to open recreational fishing seasons in the lower Cascade River seven days per week.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: 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 recreational fishing seasons daily in the lower Cascade River. Treaty fisheries for coho in this section of the Cascade River have concluded for the season; therefore, Sunday through Tuesday closures to avoid gear conflicts between recreational anglers and treaty fishers are no longer necessary.

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Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.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: October 8, 2024.

Kelly Susewind
Director

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-312-04000Y Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules—Puget Sound. Effective October 9 through October 31, 2024, the following provisions of WAC 220-312-040 recreational fishing seasons for the Cascade River, shall be as described below. All other provisions of WAC 220-312-040 not addressed herein, or unless otherwise amended, remain in effect:

Cascade River (Skagit Co.); from mouth to Rockport-Cascade Rd. Bridge:

Gamefish and salmon open daily, October 9 through October 31:

- (a) Anti-snagging rules.
- (b) Night closure.
- (c) Salmon: Daily limit 4 coho. Release all other salmon.
- (d) Game fish: Statewide length/daily limit, except:
 - (i) Cutthroat trout and wild rainbow trout: Minimum length 14 inches.
 - (ii) Dolly Varden/bull trout: Minimum length of 20 inches, count as part of the trout daily limit.