WSR 25-10-059
EMERGENCY RULES
DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE

[Order 25-65—Filed May 2, 2025, 9:09 a.m., effective May 6, 2025]

Effective Date of Rule: May 6, 2025.

Purpose: Opens spring Chinook season in a portion of Snake River.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 220-312-050.

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 2025 Columbia River forecasted return of upriver spring Chinook salmon is sufficiently abundant to allow for harvest opportunity on the Snake River based on the Washington department of fish and wildlife (WDFW) Commission Policy C-3630. The *U.S. v. Oregon* (2018-2027) Management Agreement provides Endangered Species Act (ESA) coverage for this fishery.

Current allocation, based on the preseason forecast and prior to a run update, is 407 fish for recreational fisheries in the Snake River (harvest plus release mortalities).

WDFW will monitor spring Chinook returns throughout the season and may close the fishery at any time due to harvest levels, ESA impacts, in-season run adjustments, or a combination thereof.

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Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.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: April 30, 2025.

Amy H. Windrope
for Kelly Susewind
Director

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-312-05000C Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules—Eastside. Effective May 6, 2025, until further notice, the following provisions of WAC 220-312-050, regarding salmon seasons in the Snake

River shall be open as follows. All other provisions of WAC 220-312-050 remain in effect unless modified by emergency rule:

Snake River (Franklin/Walla Wall Counties): From Texas Rapids boat launch (located on the south side of the river upstream of the mouth of Tucannon River) to the fishing restriction boundary below Little Goose Dam and including the rock and concrete area between the juvenile bypass return pipe and little Goose Dam along the shoreline of the facility (including the walkway area locally known as "the Wall" in front of the juvenile collection facility): Salmon:

(a) Effective May 6, 2025, until further notice: Open Tuesdays and Fridays only; closed Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

(b) Daily limit 4, of which up to 1 adult may be retained. Release all salmon other than hatchery Chinook.

(c) Night Closure.

(d) Barbless hooks required.

(e) Salmon may not be removed from the water unless retained as part of the daily limit.

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