

WSR 21-09-002
EMERGENCY RULES
DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE

[Order 21-50—Filed April 7, 2021, 1:59 p.m., effective April 7, 2021, 1:59 p.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

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: Repealing WAC 220-358-03000Z; and 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: Modifies 2021 commercial select area spring seasons. Impacts to nonlocal stocks are expected to be minimal and local Chinook stocks reared for the select area sites are available for harvest. The fishery is 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 actions of February 16, March 23, 30, and April 7, 2021. 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 the federal 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 the federal 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, the 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 1; Federal Rules or Standards: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 1; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 1.

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: April 7, 2021.

Kelly Susewind
Director

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-358-03000A 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) Tongue Point and South Channel:

Open_Dates	Open_Days	Open_Time	Open_Duration
Apr 8	Thu (night)	5:30 pm - 9:30 pm	4 hrs
Apr 12	Mon (night)	7:30 pm - 11:30 pm	4 hrs
Apr 20	Tue (morning)	12:30 am - 4:30 am	4 hrs
Apr 23	Fri (morning)	4:00 am - 8:00 am	4 hrs
Apr 27 - Apr 30	Tue, Thur (nights)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	2 nights
May 3 - Jun 15	Mon, Wed, Thu (nights)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	19 nights
Jun 17 - Jul 2	Mon, Thu (nights)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	5 nights

South Channel only:

Open_Dates	Open_Days	Open_Time	Open_Duration
Apr 13	Tue (night)	8:30 pm - 12:30 am	4 hrs
Apr 14 - Apr 15	Thu-Fri (night)	9:30 pm - 1:30 am	4 hrs

(a) Area:

The Tongue Point Winter-Spring Subarea is defined as waters of the Columbia River bounded by a line from the end of the southern-most pier (#1) at the Tongue Point Job Corps facility projecting in a straight line through flashing red USCG light "6" to the shore 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. If the marker on the Oregon shore is not in place, the upper boundary is defined by a line projecting easterly 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 to a regulatory marker on the southwest shore of Lois Island.

For summer fisheries, the open waters include the entire Tongue Point Select Area as described in OAR 635-042-0170 (1)(a) and WAC 220-301-010 (11)(c). 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.

The South Channel Select 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:

Winter season (Through Apr 18): 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction

Spring and Summer seasons (Apr 20 - Jun 18): 9 3/4-inch maximum mesh size restriction

The maximum net length is 1,500 feet (250 fathoms).

In the Tongue Point winter-spring subarea and the Tongue Point Select Area, the lead line weight may not exceed two pounds per any one fathom;

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.

(2) Blind Slough and Knappa Slough:

Open_Dates	Open_Days	Open_Time	Open_Duration
Apr 19 - Apr 23	Mon, Thu (nights)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	2 nights
Apr 27 - Apr 30	Tue, Thu (nights)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	2 nights
May 3 - Jun 15	Mon, Wed, Thu (nights)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	19 nights
Jun 17 - Jul 2	Mon, Thu (nights)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	5 nights

Blind Slough only:

Open_Dates	Open_Days	Open_Time	Open_Duration
Apr 8 - Apr 13	Mon, Thu (nights)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	2 nights
Apr 14 - Apr 15	Wed-Thu (night)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	12 hrs

Knappa Slough only:

Open_Dates	Open_Days	Open_Time	Open_Duration
Apr 8 - Apr 9	Thu-Fri (night)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	12 hrs
Apr 12 - Apr 13	Mon-Tue (night)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	12 hrs
Apr 14 - Apr 15	Wed-Thu (night)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	12 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. Prior to May 3, the western (downstream) boundary in Knappa Slough is a north-south line projecting through the easternmost tip of Minaker Island and regulatory markers on Karlson Island and the Oregon shore.

(b) Gear: Gillnets:

Winter season (through Apr 15): 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction.

Spring and Summer seasons (Apr 19 - Jun 18): 9 3/4-inch maximum mesh size restriction.

The maximum net length is 600 feet (100 fathoms).

There is no lead line weight limit and attachment of additional weight or anchors directly to the lead line is permitted.

(c) Miscellaneous:

Permanent transportation rules in effect. In accordance with WACs 220-69-230 (1)(i) and 220-22-010 (9)(a-b), commercial fishers are expected, and fish dealers are required, to report landings for winter-summer fisheries in Knappa Slough and Blind Slough separately using appropriate zone codes. Fish dealers are requested to keep landings from these two sites separate to aid in sampling.

(3) Deep River Select Area:

Open_Dates	Open_Days	Open_Time	Open_Duration
Apr 8 - Apr 9	Thu-Fri (night)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	12 hrs
Apr 19 - Apr 23	Mon, Thu (nights)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	2 nights
Apr 27 - Apr 30	Tue, Thu (nights)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	2 nights
May 3 - Jun 15	Mon, Wed, Thu (nights)	7:00 pm - 7:00 am	19 nights

(a) Area:

From the mouth of Deep River defined as a line from USCG navigation marker #16 southwest to a marker on the Washington shore, upstream to the Highway 4 Bridge.

(b) Gear: Gillnets:

Winter season (through Apr 1): 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction.

Spring and Summer seasons (Apr 19 - Jun 15): 9 3/4-inch maximum mesh size restriction.

The maximum net length is 600 feet (100 fathoms).

There is no lead line weight limit and attachment of additional weight or anchors directly to the lead line is permitted.

Nets may not fully cross navigation channel. It is unlawful to operate in any river, stream, or channel any net longer than three-fourths the width of the stream (WAC 220-20-015(1)). It shall be unlawful in any area to use, operate, or carry aboard a commercial fishing vessel a licensed net or combination of nets, whether fishing singly or separately, in excess of the maximum lawful size or length prescribed for a single net in that area, except as otherwise provided for in the rules and regulations of the department WAC 220-20-010 (17).

(c) Miscellaneous:

Transportation or possession of fish outside the fishing area (except to the sampling station) is unlawful until WDFW staff has biologically sampled individual catches. After sampling, fishers will be issued a transportation permit by WDFW staff.

Winter season: fishers are required to call 360-846-5268 or 360-795-0319 to confirm the place and time of sampling.

Spring season: a sampling station will be established at WDFW's Oneida Road boat ramp, about 0.5 miles upstream of the Deep River area downstream boundary (USCG navigation marker #16).

(4) Allowable Sales: Salmon (except Chum), white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of three white sturgeon with a fork length of 44-50 inches may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes all Select Area fisheries.

(5) 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. Unique catch reporting codes have been established for Blind Slough and Knappa Slough to facilitate separation of landings and sampling for winter/spring fisheries. Blind Slough and Knappa Slough have unique catch reporting codes to facilitate separation of landings and sampling for winter/spring fisheries.

(6) 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)).

(7) 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.

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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.

Reviser's note: The unnecessary underscoring 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.

REPEALER

The following section of Washington Administrative Code is repealed:

WAC 220-358-03000Z Columbia River seasons below
Bonneville. (21-50)