

WSR 21-20-021
EMERGENCY RULES
DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE

[Order 21-209—Filed September 23, 2021, 5:13 p.m., effective September 23, 2021, 5:13 p.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: The purpose of this rule making is to provide for treaty Indian fishing opportunity in the Columbia River while protecting salmon listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This rule making implements federal court orders governing Washington's relationship with treaty Indian tribes and federal law governing Washington's relationship with Oregon.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 220-359-02000U; and amending WAC 220-359-020.

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 extends the 2021 tribal fall commercial fisheries above Bonneville Dam, and in accordance with state/tribal MOUs/MOAs for below Bonneville Dam. This rule is consistent with actions of the Columbia River Compact on June 8, June 23, July 8, July 27, August 11, September 1, September 9, September 15, and September 22, 2021. Conforms state rules with tribal rules. The general public welfare is protected with the immediate opening of non-treaty buyers purchasing fish from treaty fisheries. This harvest opportunity allows for the tribal use and public access to the resource as well as the maintenance of sustainable fish populations. There is insufficient time to promulgate permanent regulations.

The Yakama, Warm Springs, Umatilla, and Nez Perce Indian tribes have treaty fishing rights in the Columbia River and inherent sovereign authority to regulate their fisheries. Washington and Oregon also have some authority to regulate fishing by treaty Indians in the Columbia River, authority that the states exercise jointly under the congressionally ratified Columbia River Compact. *Sohappy v. Smith*, 302 F. Supp. 899 (D. Or. 1969). The tribes and the states adopt parallel regulations for treaty Indian fisheries under the supervision of the federal courts. 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.

Columbia River fisheries are monitored very closely to ensure consistency with court orders and ESA guidelines. Because conditions change rapidly, the fisheries are managed almost exclusively by emergency rule. As required by court order, the Washington (WDFW) and Oregon (ODFW) departments of fish and wildlife convene public hearings and invite tribal participation when considering proposals for new emergency rules affecting treaty fishing rights. *Sohappy*, 302 F. Supp. at 912. 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: September 23, 2021.

Amy H. Windrope
for Kelly Susewind
Director

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-359-02000V Columbia River salmon seasons. Effective immediately, until further notice, the following provisions of WAC 220-301-010, WAC 220-359-010, WAC 220-359-020, WAC 220-359-030, and WAC 220-359-090 regarding tribal commercial fisheries above and below Bonneville Dam, shall be as described below. All other provisions of WAC 220-301-010, WAC 220-359-010, WAC 220-359-020, WAC 220-359-030, and WAC 220-359-090 not addressed herein, or unless amended by emergency rule, remain in effect:

1) Open Areas: SMCRA 1F, 1G, 1H (Zone 6)

(a) Season: Immediately until further notice.

(b) Gear: Hoop nets/bag nets, dip nets, and rod and reel with hook and line.

(c) Allowable sale: Salmon (any species) and steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes. Sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool and sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day pools may be kept for subsistence purposes.

(d) Standard river mouth and dam sanctuary closures remain in place for this gear.

2) Open Areas: SMCRA 1F, 1G, 1H (Zone 6)

(a) Season: Immediately, through 6:00 PM September 24; and 6:00 AM September 27 through 6:00 PM October 1, 2021.

(b) Gear: Set and Drift Gillnets with an 8-inch minimum mesh size

(c) Allowable sale: Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes. Sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool and sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day pools may be kept for subsistence purposes.

(d) Standard sanctuaries applicable to gillnet gear. A reduced 150-foot radius Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary is in effect.

3) Open Areas: SMCRA 1E1 (Downstream of Bonneville Dam)

(a) Season: Immediately through 11:59 PM October 31, 2021, only during days and times opened under tribal rules.

(b) Gear: Hook and line and/or platform gear identified in tribal rules.

(c) Allowable sale: Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be retained in the fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam.

4) Open Areas: Wind River, Drano Lake, and Klickitat River

(a) Season: Immediately until further notice, only during those days and hours when the tributaries listed are open under lawfully enacted Yakama Nation tribal subsistence fishery regulations for enrolled Yakama Nation members.

(b) Gear: Hoop Nets/Bag Nets, Dip Nets, and Rod and Reel with Hook and Line. Gillnets may only be used in Drano Lake.

(c) Allowable sale: Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence.

5) 24-hour quick reporting is required for Washington wholesale dealers for all areas as provided in WAC 220-352-315, except that all landings from treaty fisheries described above must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket (not 24-hours after the period concludes).

6) Fish caught during the open period may be sold after the period concludes.

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REPEALER

The following section of Washington Administrative Code is repealed, effective immediately:

WAC 220-359-02000U Columbia River salmon seasons. (21-199)