



# RULE-MAKING ORDER

**CR-103E (July 2011)**  
**(Implements RCW 34.05.350)**

**Agency:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Emergency Rule Only**

**Effective date of rule:**

**Emergency Rules 16-54**

- Immediately upon filing.
- Later (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?**

- Yes
  - No
- If Yes, explain:

**Purpose:** Amend recreational fishing rules for the halibut fishery

**Citation of existing rules affected by this order:**

Repealed:  
 Amended: WAC 220-56-255  
 Suspended:

**Statutory authority for adoption:** RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, and 77.12.047

**Other authority :**

**EMERGENCY RULE**

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.
- That state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.
- That in order to implement the requirements or reductions in appropriations enacted in any budget for fiscal year 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, or 2013, which necessitates the need for the immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the fiscal needs or requirements of the agency.

Reasons for this finding: This rule conforms to federal action taken by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, International Pacific Halibut Commission and National Marine Fisheries Service. The recreational halibut quota is sufficient to provide for these seasons. There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules.

**Date adopted:** March 23, 2016

**NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)**  
Joe Stohr for J W Unsworth

**SIGNATURE**

**TITLE**  
Director

**CODE REVISER USE ONLY**

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

**DATE: March 23, 2016**

**TIME: 3:25 PM**

**WSR 16-08-002**

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.  
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.  
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

**The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:**

<b>Federal statute:</b>	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
<b>Federal rules or standards:</b>	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
<b>Recently enacted state statutes:</b>	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____

**The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:**

New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
-----	-------	---------	-------	----------	-------

**The number of sections adopted in the agency's own initiative:**

New	<u>1</u>	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
-----	----------	---------	-------	----------	-------

**The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:**

New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
-----	-------	---------	-------	----------	-------

**The number of sections adopted using:**

<b>Negotiated rule making:</b>	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
<b>Pilot rule making:</b>	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
<b>Other alternative rule making:</b>	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____

## NEW SECTION

### **WAC 220-56-25500E Halibut—Seasons—Daily and possession limits.**

Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-56-255, 220-56-250, and 220-56-230, effective immediately until further notice, it is unlawful to fish for or possess halibut taken for personal use, except as provided in this section:

(1) **Catch Record Card Area 1**

- (a) Open May 1, 2016, until further notice, Thursdays through Sundays.
- (b) It is unlawful during any vessel trip to bring into port or land bottomfish except sablefish, Pacific Cod, or flat fish species when halibut are on board.

(2) **Catch Record Card Area 1 (Nearshore fishery)** Those waters shoreward from 46°38.17'N. lat., 124°15.88'W. long., to the WA/OR border at 46°16.00'N. lat., 124°15.88'W. long. (then connecting to the 40 fathom depth contour in Oregon).

- (a) Open May 2, 2016, until further notice, Mondays through Wednesdays.
- (b) It is permissible to retain bottomfish while possessing halibut onboard boats in the nearshore area.

(3) **Catch Record Card Area 2** – Open May 1, through May 17, 2016, Sundays and Tuesdays only. See (a) and (b) below for additional details.

(a) **Catch Record Card Area 2 (Northern Nearshore fishery)** Those waters from 47°31.70'N. latitude south to 46°58.00'N latitude and east of a line approximating the 30 fathom depth contour as defined by the following coordinates, open May 1, 2016, seven days per week until further notice:

47 ° 31.70 N. lat, 124 ° 37.03 W. long

47 ° 25.67 N. lat, 124 ° 34.79 W. long

47 ° 12.82 N. lat, 124 ° 29.12 W. long

47 ° 58.00 N. lat, 124 ° 24.24 W. long

- (b) Lingcod may be taken, retained and possessed seaward of the 30 fathom line on any day open to the primary halibut fishery as provided in subsection (2) above.

(4) **Catch Record Card Areas 3 and 4**

- (a) Open May 7, May 12 and May 14, 2016.
- (b) The following area southwest of Cape Flattery is closed to fishing for halibut at all times:

Beginning at 48°18' N., 125°18' W.; thence to  
48°18'N., 124°59'W.; thence to  
48°11'N., 124°59'W.; thence to  
48°11'N., 125°11'W., thence to  
48°04'N., 125°11'W.; thence to  
48°04'N., 124°59'W.; thence to  
48°N., 124°59'W.; thence to  
48°N., 125°18'W.; thence to point of origin.

(c) It is unlawful to fish for or possess bottomfish seaward of a line approximating the 20-fathom depth contour, from May 9, 2016, until further notice, except, on days open to the Pacific halibut fishery in these areas, it is permissible to retain lingcod, sablefish and Pacific cod seaward of the 20 fathom depth contour as defined by the following coordinates:

48°23.9'N. lat., 124°44.2'W. long.  
48°23.6'N. lat., 124°44.9'W. long.  
48°18.6'N. lat., 124°43.6'W. long.  
48°18.6'N. lat., 124°48.2'W. long.  
48°10.0'N. lat., 124°48.8'W. long.  
48°02.4'N. lat., 124°49.3'W. long.  
47°37.6'N. lat., 124°34.3'W. long.  
47°31.7'N. lat., 124°32.4'W. long.

(d) In Marine Area 4 (east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh Line) it is unlawful to fish for or possess bottomfish seaward of a line approximating 120-feet (20 fathoms), except, on days open to the Pacific halibut fishery in this area, it is permissible to retain lingcod, and Pacific cod seaward of the 120 feet (20 fathoms) as defined by WAC 220-56-230.

**(5) Catch Record Card Area 5 through 10**

(a) Open May 7, 12, 13, 14 and May 26 through May 29, 2016.

(b) It is permissible for halibut anglers to retain lingcod and Pacific cod caught while fishing for halibut in waters deeper than 120 feet on days when halibut fishing is open in Areas 5 and 6.

**(6) Catch Record Card Areas 11, 12 and 13 – Closed.**

(7) Daily limit one halibut, no minimum size limit. The possession limit is two daily limits of halibut in any form, except the possession limit aboard the fishing vessel is one daily limit.

(8) All other permanent rules remain in effect.

(9) It is unlawful to land halibut in a port within an area closed to halibut fishing.

---

**EMERGENCY RULE ONLY**

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds:

(x) 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.

( ) That state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

( ) That in order to implement the requirements or reductions in appropriations enacted in any budget for fiscal years 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 or 2013 which necessitates the need for the immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the fiscal needs or requirements of the agency.

**Reasons for this finding:** This rule conforms to federal action taken by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, International Pacific Halibut Commission and National Marine Fisheries Service. The recreational halibut quota is sufficient to provide for these seasons. There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules.