

## **WSR 26-19-117 - Department of Fish and Wildlife [Order 26-190-FILED September 22, 2026, 9:48 A.M., Effective September 26, 2026]: This emergency rule closes recreational fishing seasons in the upper Snohomish River**

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WSR 26-19-117 (26-19) WSR 26-19-117  
EMERGENCY RULES  
DEPARTMENT OF  
FISH AND WILDLIFE

[Order 26-190-Filed September 22, 2026, 9:48 a.m., effective September 26, 2026]

Effective Date of Rule: September 26, 2026.

Purpose: This emergency rule closes recreational fishing seasons in the upper Snohomish River.

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 close recreational fishing in the upper Snohomish River through November 1st. Targeted reductions to monitoring funds available to the department of fish and wildlife for the Skagit, Stillaguamish, and Snohomish rivers in the current fiscal year have resulted in decreased monitoring capacity. That loss of capacity requires a reduction to the geographic footprint of the Snohomish fishery so that adequate monitoring can occur for the portion of the river that will open on September 26th. 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Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 1, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.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: September 22, 2026.

Kelly Susewind

Director

#### NEW SECTION

WAC 220-312-04000M Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules - Puget Sound.

Effective September 26 through November 1, 2026, provisions of WAC 220-312-040 regarding recreational fishing seasons for the Snohomish River are modified as described in this section. All other provisions of WAC 220-312-040 not addressed in this section, unless otherwise amended by emergency rule, remain in effect:  
Snohomish River, from the railroad bridge above the Lincoln Avenue boat launch southeast of Snohomish to confluence of Skykomish and Snoqualmie rivers:

All species: Closed to fishing.

Matter furnished by the Washington Office of the Code Reviser (Washington State Register). Notice Nearby did not write this notice.

Source: Washington State Register

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