

2020-21 Washington Sport Fishing Rules Corrections and Updates

UPDATED: March 26, 2021

The following corrections have been made to the online version of the regulations:

Page 21 (added July 29)

Two errors were corrected in the Statewide Species Rules for walleye. The text in the first sentence should read: Min. size 12" in lakes, ponds, and reservoirs. The text in the last sentence should read: No size restriction/daily limit in rivers, streams, and beaver ponds.

Page 21 (added July 14)

An error was corrected in the Statewide Species Rules, the last paragraph provided the wrong page reference. The text should read: Other Fish Not Classified as Game Fish or Food Fish: Closed. See definitions on page 16.

Page 45 (added December 9)

An error was corrected to the Chewuch River (Okanogan Co.) from mouth to Eightmile Creek. The all species selective gear rules should have dates listed in effect as Sat. before Memorial Day-Aug. 15. The current whitefish season has whitefish gear in effect not selective gear rules.

Page 62 (added December 9)

Two errors were corrected to the Kettle River (Ferry / Stevens Co.) from Barstow Bridge upstream to U.S. Canadian border, and from Hwy. 21 bridge at Curlew upstream to the Canadian border. The all species selective gear rules should have dates listed in effect as Sat. before Memorial Day-Oct. 31. The current whitefish seasons have whitefish gear in effect not selective gear rules.

Page 65 (added December 9)

An error was corrected to the Methow River (Okanogan Co.) from Gold Creek to Foghorn Dam. The all species selective gear rules should have dates listed in effect as Sat. before Memorial Day-Sept. 30. The current whitefish season has whitefish gear in effect not selective gear rules.

Page 105 (added July 23)

An error was corrected to the Area 2-2 (west of Buoy 13 line) salmon season. The text should read: Open through Aug. 9, 2020. Open concurrent with the ocean (Area 2) for salmon. Area 2 rules apply.

Page 121 (added July 14)

An error was corrected on page 121 where we referenced 9 for the Sinclair Inlet Fishery (salmon), but it is 10 on the map as well as the corresponding text boundary description.

The following updates have been made to the online version of the regulations:

Page 104 (added March 4, updated March 26)

The exceptions to bottomfish that may be landed in Marine Area 1 if a halibut is onboard has been expanded. The text under additional rules for bottomfish should read:

No bottomfish may be landed in Marine Area 1 if a halibut is onboard except: sablefish, Pacific cod, all flatfish species, yellowtail, widow, canary, redstriped, greenstriped, slivergray, chilipepper, bocaccio, and blue/deacon rockfish, ~~and~~ lingcod north of the OR/WA border, and within the Nearshore Halibut Fishery. See Nearshore Halibut Fishery (see below).

Bottomfish may be retained with halibut on board in the Nearshore Halibut Fishery ONLY. The nearshore area is defined as waters shoreward of 46°38.17'N. latitude 124°15.88'W. Lon., to the WA/ OR border at 46°16.00'N Lat., 124°15.88'W Lon., then connecting to the 40 fathom depth contour in Oregon. Check the WDFW website at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations/halibut> or call (360) 902-2700 for information on Pacific halibut seasons and regulations.

- The retention/possession rules for lingcod in Marine Area 1 have changed. The additional rules for lingcod should read:
Daily limit 2. No retention or possession seaward of a line drawn from 46°38.17' N Lat., 124°21.00' W Lon., to 46°33.00' N Lat., 124°21.00' W Lon., except June 1-June 15 and Sept. 1-Sept. 30
- The additional daily limit to bottomfish in Marine Area 1 has increased for flatfish (dabs, sole, flounder). The additional rules for flatfish should read:
No min. size. In addition to the 9 bottomfish daily limit, 5 additional flatfish may be retained.

Page 105-106 (added March 4)

- The rules for lingcod in Marine Area 2 have changed. The additional rules for lingcod on page 105 should read:
Daily limit 2. No retention or possession seaward of a line approximating 30 fathoms May 1-May 31 (except when the primary halibut season is open). See 30 Fathom Lingcod Depth Restriction on next page. No retention or possession seaward of a line drawn from, 47°31.70' N, 124°45.00' W to 46°38.17' N, 124°30.00' W (except June 1-June 15, Sept. 1-Sept. 30, and when the primary halibut season is open).

The 30 Fathom Lingcod Depth Restriction has also been changed on page 106 to reflect the May 1-May effective dates.

- The additional daily limit to bottomfish in Marine Area 2 has increased for flatfish (dabs, sole, flounder). The additional rules for flatfish should read:

No min. size. In addition to the 9 bottomfish daily limit, 5 additional flatfish may be retained.

- The Halibut and Bottomfish Closure areas are no longer in effect. The text for these rules has been removed from page 106 in addition to the references of these rules on page 105.

Page 107 (added March 4)

- The additional daily limit to bottomfish in Marine Area 3 has increased for flatfish (dabs, sole, flounder). The additional rules for flatfish should read:
No min. size. In addition to the 9 bottomfish daily limit, 5 additional flatfish may be retained.
- The rules for the 20 Fathom Depth Restriction Bottomfish have changed for Marine areas 3 and 4 West of the Bonilla-Tatoosh Line. The text should read:
June 1-July 31: Fishing for or possession of bottomfish is prohibited seaward of a line approximating 20 fathoms from the Bonilla-Tatoosh line south to the Queets River in Marine Area 3 and 4 as described by the coordinates below. Pacific cod, sablefish, lingcod, bocaccio, silvergray, canary, widow, and yellowtail rockfish retention is allowed seaward of 20 fathoms when halibut is open. July 1-July 31: Yellowtail and widow rockfish retention is allowed seaward of 20 fathoms.

Page 108 (added March 4, updated March 26)

- The additional daily limit to bottomfish in Marine Area 4 West of the Bonilla-Tatoosh Line has increased for flatfish (dabs, sole, flounder). The rules for flatfish in Marine Area 4 West should read:
Second Sat. in Mar.-Third Sat. in Oct. No min. size. In addition to the 9 bottomfish daily limit, 5 additional flatfish may be retained.
- The season for flatfish has expanded within Marine Area 4 East of the Bonilla-Tatoosh Line to year-round. The rules for Marine Area 4 East should read:
East of Bonilla-Tatoosh Line Year-round No min. size. Daily limit 9.