

WAC 220-358-060 Smelt. It is unlawful to fish for smelt in the lower Columbia River for commercial purposes or to possess smelt taken from those waters for commercial purposes, except as provided in this section:

Gear

- (1) Otter trawl gear may be used to fish for smelt if:
 - (a) The head rope of the trawl does not exceed 25 feet in length.
 - (b) The foot rope or groundline of the trawl does not exceed 25 feet in length.
 - (c) The dimensions of the trawl's otter doors do not exceed 3 feet by 4 feet.
 - (d) The bag length of the trawl, as measured from the center of the head rope to the terminal end of the bunt, does not exceed 35 feet.
 - (e) The bridal rope from the rear of the otter doors to the foot and head ropes does not exceed 8 feet.
 - (f) Each breast rope does not exceed 5 feet.
 - (g) The mesh size used in the trawl does not exceed 2 inches stretch measure.
 - (h) Only one trawl net is fished from the boat at a time.
- (2) Gillnet gear may be used to fish for smelt if it does not exceed 1,500 feet in length along the cork line and the mesh size of the net does not exceed 2 inches stretch measure.
- (3) Hand dip net gear may be used to fish for smelt if it does not measure more than 36 inches across the bag frame.
- (4) From December 1 through March 31 it is lawful for smelt fishers to have salmon or sturgeon gillnets aboard while fishing for smelt.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.04.130, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047. WSR 23-07-070 (Order 23-40), § 220-358-060, filed 3/13/23, effective 4/13/23. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, and 77.12.047. WSR 17-05-112 (Order 17-04), recodified as § 220-358-060, filed 2/15/17, effective 3/18/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 00-17-117 (Order 00-146), § 220-33-040, filed 8/17/00, effective 9/17/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 75.08.080. WSR 88-18-066 (Order 88-86), § 220-33-040, filed 9/2/88.]