

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RT-2-16-15

Issued at: Anchorage, Thursday, May 21, 2015

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, May 22, 2015

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Friday, September 25, 2015, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the bag limit and possession limit for rainbow/steelhead trout in Otter Lake, located on Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER) to 10 fish with no size limit. There continues to be no bag, possession, or size limits for northern pike. This emergency order is effective from 12:01 a.m. Friday, May 22 through 11:59 p.m. Friday September 25, 2015.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 59.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl Drainage Area. (3)(A) is superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m. Friday, May 22 through 11:59 p.m. Friday, September 25, 2015.

5 AAC 59.120. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Anchorage Bowl Drainage Area.

(3) Rainbow/steelhead trout may be taken from January 1-December 31 in:

(A)(i) in Otter Lake from 12:01 a.m. Friday, May 22 through 11:59 p.m. Friday, September 25, 2015; bag and possession limit of 10 fish, no size limit.

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Mike Thalhauser
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Once stocked annually with about 10,000 rainbow trout, Otter Lake was a popular fishing location for military personnel and civilians, and has recreational cabins along its shores used by military staff. It has not been stocked since 2006 due to the presence of illegally introduced northern pike. Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER) staff and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game are currently in the final planning stages to treat Otter Lake with rotenone to eradicate northern pike in the fall of 2015.

Northern pike have depleted salmon and trout in popular local fisheries on the Kenai Peninsula, the Mat-Su Valley, and Anchorage area. As long as invasive northern pike are in Otter Lake, there is increased potential for them to be introduced to nearby waters, including nearby Sixmile Lake. Northern pike and rainbow trout have similar sensitivities to rotenone and this application will remove them from Otter Lake. Therefore, it is warranted to liberalize the bag and possession limit, and remove size restrictions in Otter Lake to maximize recreational fishing opportunities on the fisheries resources prior to restoration.

JBER requires individuals visiting Otter Lake to possess an iSportsmans pass (can be attained at <https://jber.isportsman.net/Access.aspx>) and also a Department of Defense (DoD) identification card or to be sponsored by a DoD card holder. Those anglers not possessing a current DoD identification card that wish to take advantage of this fishing opportunity should make arrangements for sponsorship with their neighbor or friend who does have the appropriate DoD identification card.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region II Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.