

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No.: 2-RT-02-01-98

Issued at: Anchorage, March 27, 1998

Effective Date: Date: 12:01 a.m.
March 30, 1998

Expiration Date: June 15, 1998

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes Ship Creek from Reeve Boulevard downstream to the Chugach dam to sport fishing from Monday, March 30, 1998 through Sunday, June 14, 1998. This closure is necessary to protect spawning rainbow trout.

REGULATIONS:

5 AAC 61.050. WATERS CLOSED TO SPORT FISHING is amended to read:

5 AAC 61.050. WATERS CLOSED TO SPORT FISHING. (21) Ship Creek is closed to salmon fishing upstream from a point 100 feet downstream from the Chugach power plant dam, and that portion of Ship Creek from the Chugach power plant upstream to the upstream side of Reeve Boulevard Bridge is closed to all fishing from March 30, 1998 through June 14, 1998, and from the upstream side of Reeve Boulevard bridge upstream to a point 300 feet upstream of the Elmendorf hatchery is closed to fishing;

JUSTIFICATION:

A self-sustaining population of rainbow trout lives in Ship Creek between Elmendorf Hatchery and the Chugach power plant dam. These trout spend most of the year in the Elmendorf hatchery settling pond. In spring, these fish migrate out of the settling pond and enter Ship Creek to spawn.

The Elmendorf hatchery settling pond is already closed to all sport fishing, but these fish have migrated into a portion of Ship Creek currently open to rainbow trout sport fishing. These fish are congregated in schools preparing to spawn and are extremely vulnerable to harvest at this time. The size of this natural rainbow trout population is unknown but is assumed to be small. An increasing number of anglers are now fishing for these trout, raising fears that the stock could be over-fished.

