

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RT-2-04-08

Issued at: Anchorage, Monday, March 24, 2008

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Friday, March 28, 2008

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, December 31, 2008, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the retention of rainbow/steelhead trout in the waters of the Campbell Creek and Chester Creek drainages, including University Lake.

This emergency order is effective from 12:01 a.m., Friday, March 28, 2008, through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, December 31, 2008.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 59.122 SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND LOCALIZED ADDITIONS AND EXCEPTIONS TO THE SEASONS, BAG, POSSESSION AND SIZE LIMITS, AND METHODS AND MEANS FOR THE ANCHORAGE BOWL AREA (2)(D)(G) and (3) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m., Friday, March 28, 2008, through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, December 31, 2008:

5 AAC 59.122 SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND LOCALIZED ADDITIONS AND EXCEPTIONS TO THE SEASONS, BAG, POSSESSION AND SIZE LIMITS, AND METHODS AND MEANS FOR THE ANCHORAGE BOWL AREA.

(2) in the Campbell Creek drainage,

(D) in the waters downstream of the forks near Piper Street, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used from 12:01 a.m., Friday, March 28, 2008, through 11:59 p.m., Thursday, July 24, 2008; rainbow/steelhead trout may not be possessed or retained; rainbow/steelhead trout that are caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed;

(G) a person 16 years of age or older may not sport fish in Campbell Creek between Dimond Boulevard and the Old Seward Highway during the designated youth fishing days which occur on the last Saturday, and Sunday in June from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; In 2008 this will be Saturday, June 28, and Sunday, June 29; during the designated youth fishing days, bait and multiple hooks may be used, king salmon may be taken with a bag and possession limit of one fish 20 inches or greater in length, and 10 fish less than 20 inches in length; there is an annual limit of five king salmon 20 inches or greater in length and a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 59.124; after taking a king salmon 20 inches or greater in length, a person may not sport fish for any species of finfish in waters open to king salmon fishing on that same day;

(3) in the Chester Creek drainage, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used; rainbow/steelhead trout may not be possessed or retained; rainbow/steelhead trout that are caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed;

Denby S. Lloyd,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Dan Bosch
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

In 2006, due to the loss of warm water at the state hatcheries, the rainbow trout stocking goal for the Anchorage Management Area was reduced by 66%. Campbell Creek, which is normally stocked with 3,000 rainbow trout, was stocked with only 1,525 fish, and Chester Creek was stocked with only 325 rainbow trout. In 2007 and again in 2008, due to pathology concerns at Elmendorf Hatchery, neither of these streams will be stocked with rainbow trout. Campbell and Chester creeks are urban creeks with paved trail access along a good portion of their reaches, making them popular summer fisheries. Therefore, it is necessary to prohibit the harvest of these fish in order to conserve their availability for multiple users, provide diversity in the area's sport fisheries, and to protect the native populations of rainbow trout that reside in both streams. The catch-and-release of rainbow trout is still allowed.

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.