

1 **5 AAC 75.XXX. STATEWIDE WILD RAINBOW TROUT MANAGEMENT**  
2 **PLAN**

- 3
- 4 (a) The Board of Fisheries (Board) finds that wild rainbow trout and their attendant  
5 ecosystems in Alaska are important to Alaskans, their quality of life, and the Alaskan  
6 economy.
- 7 (b) The Board finds that wild rainbow trout should be managed for their optimal  
8 sustained benefits. Wild rainbow trout fisheries will be managed to maintain genetic  
9 diversity, desired size composition, and at abundance levels sufficient such that  
10 stocking is not required to enhance or supplement the wild stock or fishery.
- 11 (c) Management strategies for wild rainbow trout should be consistent with the values of  
12 this fishery resource in the state of Alaska.
- 13 (d) Recognizing the lack of stock status information, the potential for increased angler  
14 participation throughout Alaska, the desire to maintain quality fisheries and habitat,  
15 the potential for loss of opportunity, and the potential for over-exploitation, the board  
16 will manage wild rainbow trout fisheries conservatively. The primary tools for  
17 conservative management include catch and release, unbaited single hook artificial  
18 lures, *and spawning season closures*.
- 19 (e) The board will further manage wild rainbow trout to achieve diverse fishing  
20 opportunities as follows:
- 21 (1) To provide for consumptive use, the Board may establish conservative harvest  
22 opportunities on wild rainbow trout. When the board considers proposed  
23 regulatory changes for a consumptive use fishery, the board will consider the  
24 following criteria:
- 25 (A) history of harvest in the fishery: a body of water that has provided harvest  
26 opportunities in the past is preferred;
- 27 (B) stock status: the body of water must contain a sufficient abundance of wild  
28 rainbow trout, given the harvest opportunities under consideration, to maintain  
29 the fishery without depleting target stocks;
- 30 (C) special characteristics of the wild rainbow trout fishery: *fisheries currently*  
31 *managed as special management areas are not preferred;*
- 32 (D) clear geographical boundaries: a body or bodies of water with clearly  
33 distinguishable legal regulatory boundaries is preferred. This refers to the  
34 angling public's ability to clearly distinguish the legal regulatory boundary of  
35 a candidate water;
- 36 (E) research, educational, or unique considerations: a body of water may be  
37 designated for conservative harvest for research or educational reasons;

- 38 (F) status of the stock or fishery: to reestablish the desired size composition of or  
39 to rehabilitate a fishery;
- 40 (G) participation in the fishery: the number of residents and nonresidents who  
41 have participated in each fishery in the past and the number of residents and  
42 nonresidents who can reasonably be expected to participate in the future;
- 43 (H) consumptive uses: the importance of each fishery for providing residents the  
44 opportunity to obtain fish for personal and family consumption; and,
- 45 (K) the availability of alternative fisheries resources.
- 46 (2) The board may, in its discretion, consider special management areas for fisheries  
47 that would diversify sport-fishing opportunity, such as fly-fishing only or trophy  
48 fishing. When the board considers proposed regulatory changes for such a  
49 management area, the board will consider the changes in accordance with the  
50 following criteria:
- 51 (A) stock status: the body of water must contain wild rainbow trout that are self-  
52 sustaining and possess some unique characteristic; the wild rainbow trout  
53 fisheries must have retained desired size composition, and numbers of wild  
54 trout or the area must have retained the habitat attributes necessary to allow  
55 these stock characteristics to return to desired proportions if regulations  
56 dealing with establishment of a body of water as a special management area  
57 are adopted;
- 58 (B) history of special management: a body of water that the public perceives as  
59 having provided quality wild rainbow trout fishing in the past is preferred over  
60 a water that does not have a history of "quality" wild rainbow trout fishing;
- 61 (C) history of consumptive uses: where it would conflict with traditional  
62 consumptive use patterns by residents.
- 63 (D) legal access: a body of water with legal public access is preferred;
- 64 (E) conflict with freshwater net fisheries: a body of water that is seasonally or  
65 spatially segregated from subsistence, personal use, and commercial net  
66 fisheries is preferred;
- 67 (F) abundance, size, and unique characteristics of the trout fishery.(G) clear  
68 geographical boundaries: a body of water with clearly distinguishable legal  
69 regulatory boundaries is preferred;
- 70 (G) importance of the wild rainbow trout fishery: a body of water with high value  
71 to the state is preferred;

72 (H) geographical distribution of special management waters: this criterion  
73 considers the proximity of a body of water to other special management  
74 waters and the availability of alternative locations not designated for special  
75 management; and,

76 (I) research, educational, or unique considerations: a body of water may be  
77 designated for special management for research or educational reasons.