

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES  
CHARGE TO THE RAINBOW TROUT TASK FORCE  
#2001-208-FB**

During the Board of Fisheries work session on October 12, 2001 the board received a briefing from Division of Sport Fish Director Kelly Hepler and board members Larry Engel and Russell Nelson on the Wild Rainbow Trout Conservation Initiative meeting held during the first week of October. The Governor's letter to the meeting participants and a summary of the meeting results were presented to the full board.

Board members reviewed and discussed the Governor's letter and materials provided by department staff. The board agreed it should initiate a process to develop two products that will be included as board proposals in the 2002 – 2003 proposal book. The board decided to create a task force, which would develop proposals for establishing:

1. A Statewide Rainbow Trout Management Plan: The task force will consolidate the conservation objectives found in the existing rainbow trout management plans for the Upper Susitna River/Upper Copper River, western Alaska and Bristol Bay, and Southeast Alaska. The task force will also consider the Governor's wild trout conservation initiative in the development of this statewide management plan.
2. A Sustainable Rainbow Trout Fisheries Policy: The task force will examine the existing Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy (5 AAC 39.222) and incorporate all of the components that pertain to rainbow trout into a new sustainable rainbow trout policy. This policy should include principles stressing provisions for optimum trout production rather than the maximum sustained yield principles in the salmon policy. The task force should also include provisions for streamside habitat protection and adequate instream flows necessary for optimum trout production and examine salmon production levels deemed necessary to sustain populations of rainbow trout.

The tentative timeline for development and consideration of statewide rainbow trout proposals is:

- **November 2001** – Appoint task force members and finalize instructions.
- **December 2001 - February 2002** – Task force members will meet to develop the rainbow trout management plan and sustainable rainbow trout fisheries policy. The task force will provide reports to the Board during the Boards scheduled meetings in January and February.
- **March 2002** – The task force will present its final recommendations and proposals to the Board.
- **April 2002** – The task force proposals will be submitted to the Board Support Section for inclusion in the proposal book sent out for public review.
- **October 2002** – Board will deliberate on the proposals dealing with statewide rainbow trout management from the task force at the end of its regularly scheduled work session.

The Division of Sport Fish will provide travel and per diem funding for all task force members to attend at least one meeting. Funding may be provided for additional meetings or they may be conducted via teleconference and/or email correspondence.

The task force will be composed of two residents from each of the four regions of the state (Western Alaska, Southcentral, Interior, and Southeast Alaska) that represent a balance between consumptive and nonconsumptive users. In addition, one representative from each of the following statewide organizations will be invited to participate: United Fishermen of Alaska, Trout Unlimited, and Alaska Flyfishers.

Adopted: November 12, 2001  
Anchorage, Alaska

  
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Ed Dersham, Chair

VOTE: 6-1

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