

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RT-1-03-06

Issued at: Soldotna, Friday, April 21, 2006

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m., Saturday, June 10, 2006, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the removal of rainbow/steelhead trout from the water during the closed fishing season in all flowing waters from the mouth of the Kenai River upstream to Skilak Lake, and the waters of Skilak Lake within a one-half mile radius of the Kenai River Inlet. This emergency order is effective from 12:01 a.m., Tuesday May 2, 2006 through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, June 10, 2006.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.023(a) (5) (B) (i) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, May 2, 2006, through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, June 10, 2006:

5 AAC 56.023. SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE KENAI RIVER DRAINAGE.

(a)(5) rainbow/steelhead trout

(B) may be taken from June 11 – May 1, in all flowing waters from the mouth of the Kenai River upstream to Skilak Lake, and the waters of Skilak Lake, except the water within a one-half mile radius of the Kenai River inlet; bag and possession limit of one fish less than 18 inches in length; no retention of fish 18 inches or greater in length; rainbow/steelhead trout caught that are 18 inches or greater in length must be released immediately;

(i) from May 2 – June 10, rainbow/steelhead trout may not be possessed or retained; trout caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a rainbow/steelhead trout from the water;

McKie Campbell,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

George E. Pappas,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Regulations prohibit sport fishing for rainbow/steelhead trout in the flowing waters of the Kenai River drainage from May 2 – June 10 to protect these stocks during the spawning season. The flowing waters from the mouth of the Kenai River upstream to Skilak Lake, and the waters of Skilak Lake within a one-half mile radius of the Kenai River Inlet are open to fishing for Dolly Varden year-round. However, anglers were documented catching and releasing rainbow trout while fishing for Dolly Varden during the rainbow/steelhead trout spawning closure in 2005. Prohibiting anglers from removing rainbow/steelhead trout from the water during the May 2 – June 10 spawning closure may reduce mortality of these incidentally-caught trout, during a time period when the spawning trout may be more susceptible to handling mortality. Similar regulations prohibiting the removal of rainbow/steelhead trout from the water exist for other streams and rivers on the Kenai Peninsula.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.