

ROPOSAL 27

5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.

Increase the bag and possession limit of stocked species in Rainbow Lake, as follows:

5AAC 74.010(c)(18) is repealed:

...

(18) **repealed** / / [IN RAINBOW LAKE, THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR RAINBOW TROUT, LANDLOCKED SALMON, ARCTIC CHAR/DOLLY/VARDEN, AND ARCTIC GRAYLING, COMBINED IS FIVE FISH, OF WHICH ONLY ONE FISH MAY BE 18 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH];

5 AAC 74.010(c)(29) is amended to read:

...

(29) in stocked waters, the bag, possession, and size limit for rainbow trout, Arctic char/Dolly Varden, landlocked salmon, lake trout, and Arctic grayling is 10 of all stocked species combined, of which no more than two fish may be lake trout and only one fish may be 18 inches or greater in length; for the purposes of this paragraph, “stocked waters” include Backdown Lake, Ballaine Lake, Big “D” Pond, Birch Lake, Bluff Cabin Lake, Bolio Lake, Brodie Lake, Bullwinkle Lake, Chena Lake, Chet Lake, CHSR 25.0 Mile Pit, CHSR 30.0 Mile Pit, CHSR 45.5 Mile Pit, CHSR 47.9 Mile Pit, CHSR 56.0 Mile Pit, Coal Mine Road #5, Craig Lake, Cushman Lake, Dick’s Pond, Doc Lake, Donna Lake, Donnelly Lake, Dune Lake, Forrest Lake, Four Mile Lake, Fourteen Mile Lake, Geskakmina Lake, Ghost Lake, Grayling Lake (Eielson Air Force Base), Hidden Lake (Eielson Air Force Base), Hidden Lake (Tetlin NWR), Horseshoe Lake, “J” Lake, Jan Lake, Johnson Pit #2, Kenna Lake, Ken’s Pond, Kids Fishing Pond, Koole Lake, Last Lake, Lisa Lake, Little Donna Lake, Little Harding Lake, Little Lost Lake, Lost Lake, Lundgren Pond, Manchu Lake, Mark Lake, Monte Lake, Monterey Lake, Mosquito Creek Lake, Mullins Pit, Nenana City Pond, Nickel Lake, Nordale #2, North Chena Pond, North Pole Pond, North Twin Lake, Olnes Pond, Otto Lake, Parks 261 Pond, Parks 285 Pond, Paul’s Pond, Pyrite Pond, Quartz Lake, **Rainbow Lake**, Rangeview Lake, Rapids Lake, Richardson Hwy. 28 Mile Pit, Richardson Hwy. 31 Mile Pit, Richardson Hwy. 81 Mile Pit, Shaw Pond, Sansing Pond, Sheefish Lake, Sirlin Drive Pond, South Twin Lake, Steese Hwy. 29.5 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 31.6 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 33.5 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 34.6 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 35.8 Mile Pit, Steese Hwy. 36.6 Mile Pit, Stringer Rd. Pond, Triangle Lake, Wainwright #6, Weigh Station Pond #1, Weight Station Pond #2, Weasel Lake, West Iksgiza Lake, Z Pit (Chena Floodway);

5 AAC 74.065(h)(3) is amended to read:

...

(3) **repealed** _/_/_ [RAINBOW LAKE].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current bag and possession limits for Rainbow Lake are overly restrictive given the difficulty of access, light fishing effort, abundant population, and the inability of the lake to yield fish larger than 18 inches under the conservative management approach as defined in the *Tanana River Area Stocked Waters Management Plan* (5 AAC 74.065). Rainbow Lake is a remote stocked lake located 12 air miles from Delta Junction, and it is accessible by float/ski plane or by snowmachine along an 11-mile winter trail.

Under the *Tanana River Area Stocked Waters Management Plan* (5 AAC 74.065), the department manages stocked waters to meet demand for diverse fishing opportunities. Since 2013, Rainbow Lake has been managed using the plan’s conservative approach which endeavors to provide a reasonable expectation of catching the daily bag limit with a reasonable chance of catching a fish 18 inches or longer in length. Due to existing fishery conditions, the plan’s regional management approach should instead be used (bag limit 10 fish, only one fish 18 inches or greater in length) as it increases fishing opportunity and simplifies regulations by aligning it with nearly all stocked lakes within the drainage.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F26-016)
