

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

POLICY #79-58-FB

PROVISIONAL SUBSISTENCE FISHERY POLICY  
FOR ILIAMNA LAKE AND LOWER KVICHAK RIVER DRAINAGE

*See also  
#77-23-FB,  
#77-27A-FB*

As stated in Policy #79-5-JB, the Alaska Board of Fisheries recognizes, through the subsistence law, that existing cultures and life styles in Alaska are of great value and should be preserved. Subsistence use of fish and game is therefore assigned a priority among uses.

In the Lake Iliamna drainage, research has determined that large rainbow trout are very limited in number. Rainbows are also extremely slow growing, spawning first at age 6 years or about 20 inches in length. Trophy sized rainbows (25-30 inches in length) are usually 7 to 10 years of age. Harvest of these stocks must be closely regulated to avoid over-harvest.

It is the objective of the Board of Fisheries to protect this unique population of large rainbow from over-harvest while allowing the traditional subsistence fishery of the area to continue in a manner that will provide adequate amounts of fish for local consumption with a minimum amount of regulatory restrictions.

Data indicate that adult rainbow trout in the Iliamna drainage migrate out of Lake Iliamna into various streams in early spring to spawn. Following spawning, the trout either return immediately to Lake Iliamna or remain in the streams until fall. These trout are particularly vulnerable to over-harvest by gill net subsistence fisheries during their spring and fall migration.

Due to the limited number of fish involved, and due to the probability of over-harvest by gill net fisheries, it is the policy of the Board of Fisheries that rainbow trout in the Iliamna Lake drainage shall be harvested by rod and reel so far as is feasible.

The subsistence fishery primarily utilizes salmon. Resident species, such as whitefish, are utilized to a lesser degree. Therefore, gill net subsistence fisheries should be allowed in those areas and during those times when salmon or other under-utilized resident species are abundant. During the times of rainbow trout migration and concentration, gill nets should not be placed in or adjacent to those streams or rivers containing significant rainbow trout populations.

Sport fishing regulations should be less restrictive during winter months than during summer months to better allow the harvest of rainbow trout by rod and reel for local consumption. Bait and treble hook may be used as legal gear when fishing through the ice.

ADOPTED: December 15, 1979

VOTE: 7/0