

PROPOSAL 148

5 AAC 47.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the fresh waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

Modify Eagle Lake cutthroat trout bag and possession and size limit, as follows:

5 AAC 47.023(h)(6) is amended to read:

...

(h) In the Petersburg/Wrangell vicinity:

(6) **repealed** / / / [IN EAGLE LAKE,

(A) ONLY UNBAITED, ARTIFICIAL LURES MAY BE USED;

(B) THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR CUTTHROAT TROUT IS ONE FISH, WHICH MUST BE 25 INCHES OR GREATER IN LENGTH];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eagle Lake is currently identified as a trophy lake for cutthroat trout and has a bag and possession limit of one fish, which must be 25 inches or greater in length. In 2023, the department assessed the cutthroat trout population in Eagle Lake and found an abundant population although after sampling more than 1,100 individual fish, no cutthroat over 25 inches was found. The current regulations are unnecessarily conservative and additional harvest opportunity could be provided. By rescinding this special provision, the regional bag and possession limit of two fish (rainbow and cutthroat trout in combination) and 11 inch minimum and 22 inch maximum size limit will now apply in Eagle Lake. These management provisions are consistent with 5 AAC 75.220 *Statewide management standards for wild trout*.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-178)
