

MEMORANDUM



To: Thomas Eason, Assistant Executive Director

From: Jon Fury, Director, Division of Freshwater Fisheries Management

Date: May 16, 2019

Subject: Review and Approval of EO 19-17; Rescinding EO 17-28 Temporary Closure to Fishing During Lake Karick Renovation

Attached is an Executive Order that would rescind EO 17-28, Temporary Suspension of Karick Lake Bag and Length Limits for all Freshwater Game Fish. The temporary closure was necessary due to the drawdown and renovation of Karick lake.

The project is now complete and is once again accessible for public recreation.

Background information on Karick Lake and the restoration project:

1. Karick Lake is a 65-acre man-made impoundment constructed in 1965 and opened to fishing in 1966. The lake is located on Florida Forest Service property and has frequently used campgrounds on both the north and south side of the lake. This is the first major renovation of the impoundment.
 2. The lake has an average depth of 7 feet with a maximum depth of 18 feet, with the deepest areas located near the dam and along the old streambed.
 3. The restoration project involved dewatering, muck removal, debris removal, habitat improvements, installation of fish attractors, and reconstruction of a handicap accessible T-fishing pier at the north campground.
 - Restoration was estimated at \$1 million dollars. Final billing is still pending, there was a reduction in the scope of work primarily due to a substantial amount of rain that occurred during the project. Even with the reduction, the final expenditures are expected to be at 87% of original budget.
 - Staff installed 100 mossback fish attractors, clustered at five locations
 - 200 tons of gravel have been ordered for installation of gravel beds to provide preferred substrate for spawning
 - Initial fish stockings have included 24,000 blue gill, 9,000 red ear, and 6,500 largemouth bass. Additional stockings of both forage and game fish are planned for this fall and next spring.
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**STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Order No. EO 19-17

**Rescinding the Temporary Suspension of Karick Lake
Bag and Length Limits for all Freshwater Game Fish**

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, acting under the authority of Art. IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution, and acting through its Executive Director under Delegation of Authority Paragraph 22, hereby rescinds Order No. EO 17-28: Temporary Suspension of Karick Lake Fish Management Area Bag and Length Limits for all Freshwater Game Fish, and reinstates to the minimum and bag limits for freshwater game fish established in Rule 68A-23.005(6)(a), (b), and (c), F.A.C., and the methods of taking freshwater fish established in Rule 68A-23.002, F.A.C., in Karick Lake, Okaloosa County, located in the Blackwater River State Forest in Northwestern Okaloosa County off County Road 189; 8 miles north of Baker, Florida, Okaloosa County.

1. This order shall take effect immediately upon execution.

Specific Authority: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Commission

Law Implemented: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Commission
and subsection 120.81(5), Florida Statutes

Given under my hand and seal
of the Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission on
this 20th day of May 2019.



Thomas H. Ear

Eric Sutton
Executive Director

Attest:

Agency Clerk

Jeanne Campbell

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY
Ericket K. McDaniel
Commission Attorney

STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Order No. EO 17-28

**Temporary Suspension of Karick Lake
Bag and Length Limits for all Freshwater Game Fish**

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, acting under the authority of Art. IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution, and acting through its Executive Director under Delegation of Authority Paragraph 22, and due to the dewatering, renovation, and resulting anticipated mortality of fish species in Karick Lake Fish Management Area, hereby suspends Rule 68A-23.005(6)(a), (b), and (c), F.A.C., the established minimum size and bag limit for freshwater game fish and modify methods of taking freshwater fish Rule 68A-23.002 in Karick Lake, Okaloosa County located in the Blackwater River State Forest in Northwestern Okaloosa County off County Road 189; 8 miles north of Baker, Florida, Okaloosa County, in accordance with the following:

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 68A-23.005(6)(a), (b), and (c), F.A.C., size limits and bag limits for black bass, black crappie and panfish are hereby suspended for Karick Lake, Okaloosa County, for the term of this order.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 68A-23.002, F.A.C., general methods of taking freshwater fish are modified on, Karick Lake, Okaloosa County to allow the following methods: dip net not over 3-feet in diameter, and by hand (exclusive of any device) for the term of this order.
3. This order shall not have the effect of authorizing the illegal possession or transportation of freshwater game fish in excess of commercial quantities in violation of 379.406, Florida Statutes.
4. All persons taking freshwater fish shall be required to possess a valid Florida freshwater fishing license unless exempt under 379.353, Florida Statutes
5. This order shall take effect upon execution and shall expire when repealed by subsequent order.

Specific Authority: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Commission

Law Implemented: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution
and Section 120.81(5), Florida Statutes



Given under my hand and seal of the Florida
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
on this 27th day of July, 2017.



Nick Wiley
Executive Director

Attest:
Agency Clerk

