

# Clunie Lake

Clunie Lake is Fort Richardson's largest lake and is a heavily used recreational area. Some reasons for its popularity include easy accessibility, picnicking and camping opportunities, great fishing, and excellent wildlife viewing opportunities.

## Physical Data (adapted from ADF&G's Anchorage Stocked Lakes Series)

<http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/region2/lakemaps/html/LAKEANCH.stm>

U.S.G.S Map Ref.: Anch. B-7, T15N, R1W, S27,34  
 Elevation: 150'  
 Volume: 1,129.2 Acre Ft  
 Mean Depth: 10.7'  
 Game Fish Present: Rainbow Trout, Landlocked Salmon, Arctic Char, Lake Trout  
 Surface Acres: 105.6  
 Maximum Depth: 33'  
 Shoreline Length: 2.7 miles

## Stocking

Clunie Lake is stocked annually by the state of Alaska (see Tables 1 and 2 below) with a variety of different fish species including rainbow trout, arctic char, chinook salmon, and lake trout. Not all of these fish species are stocked every year but since the conditions in Clunie Lake are favorable for fish overwintering, all of these species are currently found and caught in the lake.

Several conditions have to be met in order for fish to survive in a lake through the winter months including sufficient depth and surface area to resist complete freeze-up as well as sufficient dissolved oxygen levels. Clunie Lake, at 105.6 surface acres and over 30 feet deep, has sufficient water volume to resist complete freeze-up and is thought to contain warm springs, both of which help to provide sufficient oxygen levels for supporting fish over winter.

Table 1. Sport Fish Stocking Plan for Clunie Lake (adapted from ADF&G's *Statewide Stocking Plan for Recreational Fisheries 2003*)

Species	Lifestage	Target Release Date	Projected Numbers of Fish Stocked per Year				
			2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Arctic Char	Catchable	31 May	0	3,500	4,500	3,500	4,500
Chinook	Catchable	15 Oct	8,000	8,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Rainbow	Catchable	25 May	2,500	2,250	1,250	2,250	1,250
Rainbow	Catchable	30 June	2,500	2,250	1,250	2,250	1,250
<b>Total</b>			<b>13,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>

Table 2. Sport Fish Stocking Report for Clunie Lake (adapted from ADF&G's Sport Fish Hatchery Program—Fish Stocking Update)

[http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/statewide/hatchery/stocking\\_search/html/stock\\_search.cfm](http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/statewide/hatchery/stocking_search/html/stock_search.cfm)

Year	Species	Total Number of Fish Stocked per Species per Year
1998	Rainbow Trout	4,152
	Arctic Char	2,133
	Chinook Salmon	3,000
	<b>1998 Total</b>	<b>9,285</b>
1999	Rainbow Trout	55,484
	Lake Trout	2,150
	Chinook Salmon	4,045
	<b>1999 Total</b>	<b>61,679</b>
2000	Rainbow Trout	4,669
	Chinook Salmon	8,819
	<b>2000 Total</b>	<b>13,488</b>
2001	Rainbow Trout	7,804
	Lake Trout	2,000
	Chinook Salmon	8,360
	<b>2001 Total</b>	<b>18,164</b>
2002	Rainbow Trout	3,932
	Arctic Char	4,387
	Chinook Salmon	8,004
	<b>2002 Total</b>	<b>16,323</b>
2003	Rainbow Trout	4,613
	Arctic Char	4,496
	<b>2003 Total</b>	<b>9,109</b>

### Facilities

Portable restrooms, fire grates, camping (there are no assigned spots or artificially leveled tent pads)

### Clunie Lake's Loons

Clunie Lake is known for its nesting loons. Protection of remaining habitat for these sensitive waterbirds is of primary importance as human disturbance throughout the Anchorage area is causing significant reductions in their numbers and former territory. Please observe loons from a distance and never approach them.

### Notes

- Fishing from shore is possible and can be productive but for the best fishing bring a small boat (remember that all boaters must wear life jackets) and paddle out to the

deepest part of the lake (especially to increase the odds of catching a lake trout or arctic char, both of which prefer deeper water).

- Swimming in the lakes of Fort Richardson is prohibited.
- The eastern shore of Clunie Lake is private property so to avoid trespassing stay in your boat or, if on foot, stay on the western shore.
- Remember that it is your responsibility to help keep Clunie Lake and the rest of Alaska clean and wild. Please take your trash with you, including your discarded fishing line. There is nothing more disheartening than to arrive at your intended camping or fishing spot only to find the scattered remains of someone else's camp. Besides being unsightly, this rubbish can also attract and food-condition bears, injure other people (i.e. cuts from broken glass, puncture wounds from discarded hooks, et cetera), and injure or kill wildlife. Take pride in our wild areas and help protect them for future generations—carry out your trash.