

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-NP-1-59-15

Issued at: Soldotna, Monday, December 21,
2015

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, December 22, 2015

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Saturday,
December 31, 2016, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the number of lines that may be used to fish through the ice and prohibits the retention of any species of fish in East Mackey Lake, West Mackey Lake, Union Lake, and Derks Lake. Sport fishing through the ice is permitted using two closely attended lines. Anglers may still use up to five lines while sport fishing through the ice for northern pike in Sevena Lake, and the unnamed lakes on Tote Road. This emergency order is effective beginning 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, December 22, 2015 through 11:59 p.m., Saturday, December 31, 2016.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area. (1)(I) are modified by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, December 22, 2015 through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, December 31, 2016:

5 AAC 57.121. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Lower Section of the Kenai River Drainage Area.

(1) sport fishing gear restrictions:

(I) in Mackey Lakes, Derks Lake, Union Lake, Sevena Lake, and the unnamed lakes on Tote Road, only northern pike may be retained, all other species of fish caught must be released immediately; allowable gear is limited to standard ice fishing gear as specified in 5 AAC 57.120(9)(B); fishing gear must be closely attended as specified in 5 AAC 75.033;

(i) Mackey Lakes, Derks Lake, and Union Lake, only two lines may be used to sport fish through the ice;

(ii) Sevena Lake, and the unnamed lakes on Tote Road, five lines may be used to fish for northern pike through the ice;

Sam Cotten,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Robert N. Begich
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Mackey Lakes, Derks Lake, and Union Lake were successfully treated with rotenone to eradicate non-native northern pike in September 2014. These lakes are no longer designated as northern pike waters in the Kenai River drainage area and the number of lines that may be used to fish through the ice is reduced to be consistent with other area lakes. During 2015 department staff captured and transported approximately 30,000 native fish from Soldotna Creek to these four lakes to aid in the restoration of the native fish populations. To allow for the restoration of native fish in the Soldotna Creek drainage, it is prudent to apply conservative regulations on these native fish stocks until they are able to recolonize and propagate. Effort is expected to be minimal due to the low abundance and the small size of the gamefish present in these lakes. Five lines may still be used on Sevena Lake and the unnamed lakes on Tote Road as these lakes have yet to be treated with rotenone and pike are still present in them.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.