

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-DV-1-04-18

Issued at: Soldotna, Friday, December 29, 2017

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, January 1, 2018

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday,  
December 31, 2018, unless superseded by  
subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the retention of Arctic char/Dolly Varden in Stormy Lake.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.122 Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area. (15) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Monday, January 1 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, December 31, 2018:

### **5 AAC 56.122 Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Kenai Peninsula Area.**

- (15) in Stormy Lake, Arctic char/Dolly Varden may not be retained or possessed; Arctic char/Dolly Varden caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed.

Sam Cotten,  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Jason Pawluk  
Assistant Area Management Biologist

### JUSTIFICATION:

Stormy Lake was successfully treated with rotenone to eradicate nonnative northern pike in September 2012. Prior to the treatment, eggs were taken from native Arctic char and reared in the William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery. During the summer of 2013, Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff released the resulting Arctic char fingerling into Stormy Lake. Post-treatment surveys of Stormy Lake to determine if the native Arctic char restoration project was successful are encouraging. Arctic char restored to Stormy Lake are now age five. As shown by weekly sampling events through the fall of 2017, the majority of Arctic char have not reached maturity; therefore, they have yet to undergo a major spawning event. Arctic char are a species with slow growth rates and low population densities and it is unknown how long it will take for these fish to become sexually mature and to reestablish natural production. To allow for the restoration of native fish in Stormy Lake, it is prudent to prohibit harvest of this stock until they are able to propagate.

### 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, Alaska 99518, (907) 267-2218.