SPORT FISHING *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-NP-2-56-19

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Issued at: Palmer, Monday, December 9, 2019

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, March 31, 2020, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the number of lines allowed through the ice from two to five in Kings Lake when fishing for northern pike.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 60.122. (4)(E) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, December 11, 2019, through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, March 31, 2020:

5 AAC 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.

(4) in the Cottonwood Creek drainage,

(E) in Kings and Anderson Lakes, five lines may be used to take northern pike through the ice; allowable gear is limited to standard ice fishing gear as specified in 5 AAC 60.120(7)(B); fishing gear must be closely attended as specified in 5 AAC 75.033; all other species of fish caught must be released immediately;

Doug Vincent-Lang Commissioner

By delegation to:

Sam Ivey Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game plans to eradicate northern pike from Kings and Anderson lakes in the fall of 2020. Northern pike have depleted populations of salmon and trout in popular local fisheries in the Mat-Su Valley, Kenai Peninsula, and Anchorage areas. As long as invasive northern pike are in Kings and Anderson lakes, there is increased potential for them to spread to nearby waters. Five lines per angler is already allowed by regulation in Anderson Lake for the taking of northern pike. Therefore, it is warranted to liberalize the capture methods in Kings Lake so that both lakes maximize recreational fishing opportunities for northern pike prior to restoration of Kings and Anderson lakes in the fall of 2020.

DISTRIBUTION:

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