

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-NP-2-16-19

Issued at: Palmer, Monday, April 29, 2019

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, October 31, 2019
unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes Alexander Lake and Sucker Lake to sport fishing.

REGULATION:

Under the authority of 16.05.060(a) the provisions of 5 AAC 61.112 (5)(G) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, May 1 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, October 31, 2019:

5 AAC 61.112. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Susitna River Drainage Area.

(5) in the Alexander Creek drainage, and all waters within a one-half mile radius of the confluence of Alexander Creek with the Susitna River,

(G) Sucker Lake and Alexander Lake are closed to sport fishing;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Sam Ivey,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The invasive aquatic plant, elodea, was likely introduced to the Alexander Creek watershed, specifically Alexander and Sucker lakes, by floatplane from an elodea infestation in an Anchorage lake. Coordinated herbicide treatments have since eliminated the vector from the Anchorage location. Alexander and Sucker lakes are heavily infested with the plant. As populations of elodea in the Alexander Creek watershed remain untreated while large-scale funding is sought to fully eradicate the plant, float planes will remain a vector of further spreading elodea. Eradicating elodea from the Alexander Creek watershed is a high priority because if left unmanaged, these infestations could serve as a primary source for new infestations, threatening pristine fish habitat in Southcentral Alaska and ultimately around the state.

An average of 550 angler-days of fishing effort is expended on Alexander Lake each year, some of this effort by anglers accessing the lake during the open water period via private plane and commercial air

charter services to fish for northern pike. Closing Alexander and Sucker lakes to sport fishing has the potential to significantly reduce air floatplane traffic during the effective period of this emergency order, thereby reducing the potential for spreading elodea to other area lakes. One fragment stuck on one plane rudder or fishing gear is enough to start a new infestation in another water body, so containment is of the utmost importance. Fishing for northern pike will reopen for the winter when ice-cover minimizes the chances of spreading elodea.

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.