

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-DV-1-03-23

Issued at: Soldotna, Tuesday, December 20, 2022

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Sunday, January 1, 2023

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday, December 31, 2023, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order amends the bag and possession limit of Arctic char/Dolly Varden in Stormy Lake to one fish, less than 16 inches in length.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.122. (11)(E) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Sunday, January 1 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, December 31, 2023:

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

(11) Swanson River Drainage:

(E) in Stormy Lake, the bag and possession limit for Arctic Char/Dolly Varden is one fish, less than 16 inches in length. Fish 16 inches and greater in length must be released immediately.

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Jenny Gates
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 (ADF&G) staff released the resulting Arctic char fingerling into Stormy Lake. Posttreatment 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 ten. As shown by sampling events through the fall of 2019 and 2020, Arctic char have reached maturity and spawning has been identified through ADF&G surveys. Arctic char are a species with slow growth rates. Low population densities and prohibiting retention of fish 16 inches and greater in length will preserve ~89% of mature fish as the population continues to reestablish within the lake. Considering the positive indicators of a sustainable population of Arctic Char in Stormy Lake, it is appropriate to provide limited harvest opportunity of this stock.

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.