

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-DV-2-01-23

Issued at: Palmer, 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Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday, December 31, 2023, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.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 prohibits the retention of Arctic char/Dolly Varden in the Fish Creek drainage. Popular lakes affected by this emergency order include Big, Flat, and Mirror lakes.

REGULATION:


The provisions of 5 AAC 60.122. (5)(G) are superseded by this emergency order.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 60.122. Special provisions for the seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Knik Arm Drainages Area.

- (5) in the Fish Creek drainage,
 - (G) 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;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Sam Ivey,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

A review of catch and harvest data indicates a decline in the overall abundance of Arctic char, particularly for fish larger than 20 inches in length. Continued harvest of this stock does not appear to be sustainable at this time. Arctic char are a species with slow growth rates that spawn every other year. Catch-and-release for the sake of conservation is warranted at this time to retard any further decline by maximizing recruitment of fish into mature age classes and maximize spawning events of large fish to allow the stock to rebuild to historical abundance and age and size distribution. It is prudent to provide this level of protection until this stock can be further evaluated.

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.