

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-NP-2-14-20

Issued at: Palmer, Monday, May 4, 2020

Effective Date: 12:01a.m. Wednesday, May 6, 2020      Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Friday,  
July 31, 2020, unless superseded by  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Under the authority of 16.05.060(a) the provisions of 5 AAC 61.112 (5)(G) are superseded by this emergency order.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 6 through 11:59 p.m. Friday, July 31, 2020:

#### **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:

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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 reduced the vector from the Anchorage location. However, Alexander and Sucker lakes are heavily infested with the plant. Efforts are underway by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to treat these lakes with herbicides to eradicate the plant. Until treatments have taken effect, float planes will remain a vector for further spread. 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 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 is enough to start a new infestation in another water body, so containment is of the utmost importance. Sport fishing in both lakes will reopen once the treatments this year have had time to take effect, which is anticipated to occur by the end of July.

**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.