

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-DV-1-01-21

Issued at: Soldotna, Monday, December 21, 2020

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, January 1, 2021

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Friday, December 31, 2021, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order prohibits the retention of Arctic char/Dolly Varden in Stormy Lake.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.122 (15) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, January 1 through 11:59 p.m. Friday, December 31, 2021:

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

(15) Stormy Lake, Arctic char/Dolly Varden may not be retained or possessed; Arctic char/Dolly Varden caught must be released immediately.

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Colton Lipka
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. Post-treatment 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 eight. As shown by sampling events through the fall of 2019 and 2020, some Arctic char have reached maturity; but there has only been one major spawning event that has been identified through ADF&G surveys. Arctic char are a species with slow growth rates and low population densities and it is unknown how long it will take for these fish to reestablish consistent natural production in Stormy Lake. To allow for the restoration of native fish in Stormy Lake, it is prudent to prohibit harvest of this stock until they are able to sustain natural production.

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.