

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-R-U-01-21

Issued at: Fairbanks, January 25, 2021

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, January 27, 2021

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, March 31, 2022

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order extends the provisions of Emergency Orders 3-R-U-01-20, 3-R-U-02-20, 3-R-U-03-20, and 3-R-U-02-20 closing Kimberly Lake to sport fishing and restricting Bear, Moose, and Polaris Lakes and Bathing Beauty Pond to catch-and-release.

REGULATION:

Under the authority of 5 AAC 75.003(5) the provisions of 5 AAC 74.010(c)(33) and (34) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, January 27, 2021:

5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.

(c)(33) Kimberly Lake is closed to sport fishing;

(34) Polaris, Bear, and Moose Lakes and Bathing Beauty Pond are open to catch-and-release fishing for all species; any fish species caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: 
Heather Scannell
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

In 2019, Kimberly Lake surface waters exceeded EPA and DEC action levels (70 ppt) for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). There is no public access to Kimberly Lake and future fish

stockings at Kimberly Lake are suspended indefinitely. In addition, due to high levels of PFAS in stocked rainbow trout sampled from the lake, sport fishing will remain closed.

In the summer of 2020, surface waters from Bear, Moose and Polaris Lakes on Eielson Air Force Base were tested and results indicated that PFAS levels exceeded EPA and DEC action levels. To reduce the potential for PFAS contamination to the angling public, while still allowing sport fishing opportunity, Bear, Moose, and Polaris Lakes are restricted to catch-and-release fishing.

Results from water quality testing at Bathing Beauty Pond in the summer of 2020 indicated that PFAS levels were below EPA and DEC action levels (21–26 ppt). These concentrations can result in the bioaccumulation of PFAS in fish tissues to levels that may be unsafe for consumption. Therefore, Bathing Beauty Pond is being restricted to catch-and-release fishing out of an abundance of caution.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

No. 3-R-U-01-20: Closed Kimberly and Polaris Lakes due to surface waters testing in excess of EPA and DEC action levels for PFAS.

No. 3-R-U-02-20: Rescinded EO 3-R-U-01-20 and opened Polaris Lake to catch-and-release fishing. Kimberly Lake remained closed.

No. 3-R-U-03-20: Restricted Bear and Moose Lakes to catch-and-release fishing due to surface waters testing in exceeding EPA and DEC action levels for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are.

No. 3-R-U-04-20: Restricted Bathing Beauty Pond to catch-and-release fishing, due to water quality results indicating per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) levels were below EPA and DEC action levels (21–26 ppt). However, given the tendency of PFAS to bioaccumulate in fish at rates often exceeding 2,000x that of what is observed in water samples, restrictions were implemented to prevent consumption of fish.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region III Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701, (907) 459-7207.