

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No. 3-R-U-08-23**

**Issued at:** Fairbanks, April 24, 2023

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m. Monday,  
May 1, 2023

**Expiration Date:** 11:59 p.m. Tuesday,  
April 30, 2024, unless superseded by  
subsequent emergency order.

### **EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order restricts Kimberly Lake to catch-and-release fishing only for all fish species. Any fish caught while sport fishing in Kimberly Lake may not be retained and must be released immediately.

### **REGULATION:**

Under the authority of 5 AAC 75.003(5), the provisions of 5 AAC 74.010(c)(33) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Monday, May 1, 2023 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, April 30, 2024:

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

(c)(33) in Kimberly Lake, finfish species may be taken by catch-and-release only; any fish species caught must be released immediately.

Douglas Vincent-Lang  
Commissioner



By delegation to: \_\_\_\_\_

Andrew Gryska  
Area Management Biologist

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

In 2019 and 2020, surface waters from Kimberly Lake exceeded EPA and DEC action levels for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and these concentrations can result in the bioaccumulation of PFAS in fish tissues to levels that may be unsafe for consumption. High levels of PFAS were measured in stocked rainbow trout sampled from Kimberly Lake, and consequently stocking was discontinued. The lake was stocked one time by ADF&G on June 5, 2018, with 1-year old rainbow trout, which have a lifespan of approximately 6 years. Although these fish are reaching the end of their lifespan, some fish remain in the lake. Allowing catch-and-release fishing at Kimberly Lake will provide fishing opportunity and will be consistent with recent regulatory actions taken by the Alaska Board of Fisheries to allow catch-and-release fishing in other PFAS-contaminated lakes (Bathing Beauty Pond, Polaris, Bear and Moose lakes). All fish caught must be returned to the water immediately.

**PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:**

No. 3-R-U-01-22 issued February 11, 2022, and expired April 30, 2023, closed Kimberly Lake to sport fishing.

No. 3-R-U-09-23 issued April 24, 2023, and expires June 30, 2023, restricted Bathing Beauty Pond, Bear, Moose, and Polaris Lakes, Piledriver Slough, and Moose Creek to catch-and-release fishing.

**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.