

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 3-R-U-09-23

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

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

**Expiration Date:** 11:59 p.m. Friday, June  
30, 2023, unless superseded by subsequent  
emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order restricts Bear, Moose, and Polaris Lakes, Bathing Beauty Pond, Piledriver Slough, and Moose Creek to catch-and-release fishing only for all fish species. Any fish caught while sport fishing in these waters 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Under the authority of 5 AAC 75.003(5), the provisions of 5 AAC 74.010(c)(17) are superseded and the provisions of 5 AAC 74.010(c)(34) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Monday, May 1 through June 30, 2023:

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

(c)(17) in Piledriver Slough and its tributaries, finfish species may be taken by catch-and-release only; any fish species caught must be released immediately;

(34) in Polaris, Bear, and Moose Lakes, Bathing Beauty Pond, and Moose Creek, 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 Bear, Moose, and Polaris Lakes and Bathing Beauty Pond exceeded current EPA and DEC action levels for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). High surface water concentrations can result in the bioaccumulation of PFAS in fish tissues to levels that may be unsafe for consumption. Therefore, Bear, Moose, and Polaris Lakes, and Bathing Beauty Pond are restricted to catch-and-release fishing out of an abundance of caution.

In 2021, fish and water tested from Piledriver Slough, and Moose Creek were contaminated with PFAS. Portions of both Piledriver Slough and Moose Creek are within or immediately downstream of the known groundwater contamination plume associated with Eielson Air Force Base. To be consistent

with the precautionary approach that has been used on other contaminated waters in the area, Piledriver Slough and Moose Creek are restricted to catch-and-release fishing for all fish species.

**PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:**

No. 3-R-U-01-22 issued February 9, 2022, and expires April 30, 2023, closed Kimberly Lake to sport fishing and restricted Bathing Beauty Pond, Bear, Moose, and Polaris Lakes, Piledriver Slough, and Moose Creek to catch-and-release fishing.

No. 3-R-U-08-23 issued April 24, 2023, restricts Kimberly Lake 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.