

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 3-R-U-01-22

**Issued at:** Fairbanks, February 9,  
2022

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m. Friday, February 11, 2022

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April 30, 2023, unless superseded by  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

### **EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order No. 3-R-U-01-21 and Emergency Order No. 3-R-U-02-21 and closes Kimberly Lake to sport fishing and 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 (c)(17) are superseded and the provisions 5 AAC 74.010.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. Friday, February 11, 2022:

#### **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, sport fishing is open to catch-and-release fishing for all species; any fish species caught must be released immediately and returned to the water unharmed;

(33) Kimberly Lake is closed to sport fishing;

(34) in Polaris, Bear, and Moose Lakes, Bathing Beauty Pond, and Moose Creek, sport fishing is 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Andrew Gryska  
Area Management Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:**

In 2019 and 2020, surface waters from Kimberly, Bear, Moose, and Polaris Lakes exceeded EPA and DEC action levels (70 ppt) for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). In addition, due to high levels of PFAS in stocked rainbow trout sampled from Kimberly Lake, stocking was discontinued, and the lake has been closed to all sport fishing since 2019. 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). However, these 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 being 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 determined to be 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 stocked waterbodies 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-01-21 issued January 25, 2021, closed Kimberly Lake to sport fishing and restricted Bathing Beauty Pond and Bear, Moose, and Polaris Lakes to catch-and-release fishing.

No. 3-R-U-02-21 issued March 30, 2021, restricted 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.