

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

Eddie Grasser, Director



**Department of
Fish and Game**

Division of Wildlife Conservation

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Illegally Dumped Fish Waste Invites Bears, Fines

July 18, 2022 (Anchorage) – With salmon arriving now in many Alaska fisheries, anglers and dipnetters are reminded to dispose of fish waste properly. Discarding fish waste on public or private property or along roads, pull-offs, and trails can attract bears into residential areas and result in fines ranging from \$300 to \$1,000.

In Anchorage, where some 300,000 people live in close proximity to bear habitat, fish waste is illegally discarded each summer in vacant lots, greenbelts, and along city streams and lakeshores. Anchorage Area Wildlife Biologist Dave Battle believes many people who dump fish waste don't realize the danger they create for others. "Fish and fish carcasses attract bears," said Battle, "and brown bears, particularly, may aggressively defend those food sources." Improperly discarded fish waste also sets the stage for human-bear conflicts in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley and on the Kenai Peninsula. Illegal dumping is prohibited under Alaska's littering laws.

Anglers and dipnetters are encouraged to chop carcasses into numerous pieces and throw them into fast-moving water. Those who remove fish from the fishing site for processing should consider the following recommendations:

- If allowed, fish waste should be taken to a waste transfer station or landfill. Alternatively, fish waste can be frozen to eliminate odors prior to trash pickup; do not place waste out the night before pickup.
- The Central Peninsula Landfill located at Mile 98.5 Sterling Highway 2.5 miles south of Soldotna accepts fish waste free of charge from 8 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. seven days a week in summer.
- Fish waste can also be deposited at Kenai Peninsula transfer facilities, including those in Cooper Landing, Kasilof, and Ninilchik, but in smaller quantities; all fish waste must be double-bagged in plastic trash bags with a limit of two bags dropped off per day.
- Anchorage Regional Landfill, the city's Central Transfer Station, and the Girdwood Transfer Station all accept residential, non-commercial fish waste.
- Matanuska-Susitna Borough Solid Waste accepts small quantities of non-commercial fish waste (less than 150 pounds) at the Central Landfill located at N. 49th State Street in Palmer. Waste must be double-bagged and tied in leak-proof bags. Fish waste from private residents is accepted at transfer stations. For more information, call 907-861-7600.

Media Contact: Dave Battle, david.battle@alaska.gov, (907) 267-2185