

2019 Mat-Su Elodea Update

Dan Coleman
DNR Division of Agriculture



Overview



Many thanks

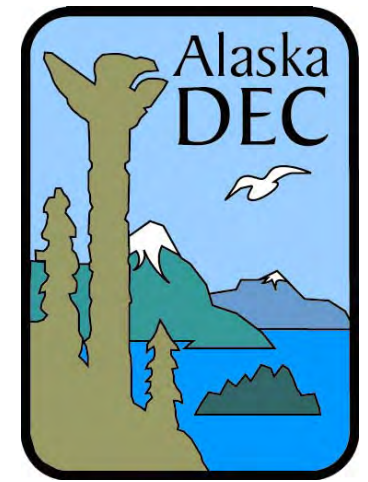


Alexander Creek
Watershed



A new infestation





Thank You!

Alexander Creek Watershed

- ▶ Alexander Lake
- ▶ Sucker Lake Complex
- ▶ Remote
- ▶ Dynamic systems
- ▶ Eradication challenging and costly



Hydrology

▶ Flow data

▶ Alexander Creek

▶ May 29 - 680 cfs

▶ June 25 - 156 cfs

▶ Lower Sucker Creek

▶ June 11 - 82 cfs

▶ July 19 - 58 cfs



Alexander Lake Dye Study

- ▶ Rhodamine dye applied centrally
- ▶ 40 sample sites
 - ▶ 10 within treatment area
 - ▶ 30 outside
- ▶ Samples collected at intervals
 - ▶ HAT
 - ▶ 1, 4, 12, 24, 48, 72, 96, 168
- ▶ Gained valuable insight
- ▶ Fine tune Rx and treatment options



2019 - Containment and Prevention

▶ ADF&G - Emergency Order

- ▶ Closed all sportfishing May 1 - October 31
- ▶ Reduce floatplane traffic
- ▶ Residents say it worked

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-NP-2-16-19

Issued at: Palmer, Monday, April 29, 2019

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, October 31, 2019
unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes Alexander Lake and Sucker Lake to sport fishing.

REGULATION:

Under the authority of 16.05.060(a) the provisions of 5 AAC 61.112 (5)(G) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, May 1 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, October 31, 2019:

5 AAC 61.112. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Susitna River Drainage Area.

(5) in the Alexander Creek drainage, and all waters within a one-half mile radius of the confluence of Alexander Creek with the Susitna River,

(G) Sucker Lake and Alexander Lake are closed to sport fishing;

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Sam Ivey,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The invasive aquatic plant, elodea, was likely introduced to the Alexander Creek watershed, specifically Alexander and Sucker lakes, by floatplane from an elodea infestation in an Anchorage lake. Coordinated herbicide treatments have since eliminated the vector from the Anchorage location. Alexander and Sucker lakes are heavily infested with the plant. As populations of elodea in the Alexander Creek watershed remain untreated while large-scale funding is sought to fully eradicate the plant, float planes will remain a vector of further spreading elodea. Eradicating elodea from the Alexander Creek watershed is a high priority because if left unmanaged, these infestations could serve as a primary source for new infestations, threatening pristine fish habitat in Southcentral Alaska and ultimately around the state.

An average of 550 angler-days of fishing effort is expended on Alexander Lake each year, some of this effort by anglers accessing the lake during the open water period via private plane and commercial air

▶ DNR - Herbicide Treatment

- ▶ Contact herbicide - diquat dibromide
- ▶ Knock elodea down in high traffic areas
- ▶ Reduce the vector











Future Plans

- ▶ Eradication the long-term goal
- ▶ Funding the limiting factor
- ▶ Continue containment and prevention program
- ▶ Outreach and education

Big Lake Elodea - Rapid Response

- ▶ Reported to ADF&G October 10
- ▶ Confirmed October 14
- ▶ DEC - Applied for and received authorization to treat October 15
- ▶ Public Notice posted October 17
- ▶ Herbicide applied to infestation November 4
- ▶ 25 days after initial report





Lloyds Pond

Mirror
Lake

B i g L a k e

Our Rd

Our Rd

W. Lakes Blvd

W. Lakes Blvd

W. Lakes Blvd

W. Dole Rd

S. Winston Pkwy

e Wild Rd

Wildrose Ln. W



Big Lake Elodea - plans and needs

- ▶ Form a regional elodea task force
- ▶ Monitor herbicide treatment
- ▶ Bathymetric data
- ▶ Survey suitable habitat
- ▶ Spot treatments
- ▶ Outreach and education





daniel.coleman@alaska.gov
(907)745-8721