

Federal agencies to conduct study in Gates of the Arctic

The National Park Service has contracted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct a lake fisheries study in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, beginning this month.

The study will provide baseline information on lake chemistry, fish species composition, abundance, age structure, growth and food habits. It also will assess sport and subsistence effort.

Two lakes will be studied in depth for two years — Walker Lake and the Chandler Lake system, including Amiloyak Lake.

Biologists will spend most of the summer and part of the spring or fall at the lakes collecting data and talking to fishermen. Fishermen will be asked to cooperate by providing information on their catch and on their



fishing patterns.

Two species of fish, lake trout and Arctic char, are of particular concern because of their slow growth.

Information is needed for managers to monitor, protect and manage fish populations, their habitats and use. With better information, protection of the resources will benefit all park users.

Those who have any questions about the project may contact: Roger J. Siglin, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, Box 74680, Fairbanks 99707; 456-0281.