

AMPHIBIAN ESSENTIALS

Everything You Need to Know to Help Protect Alaska's Amphibians

- It is usually best to not handle the amphibians you find and just to leave them where they are. If you must pick them up however, you should be aware that their skin is delicate and permeable. Make sure that you have clean hands when you pick them up – this means **NO BUG SPRAY** and **NO SUNSCREEN!** Put them down gently after you have held them in the exact location that you found them!
- Never transport an amphibian to a new location! This can lead to the spread of diseases that kill amphibians and alter the genes of the entire population!
- When possible, clean and disinfect your boots and waders when you get home. Some amphibian diseases can be spread on footwear from site to site.
- Never keep a native amphibian as a pet. This is not only illegal but amphibians are already in peril. Each one that you take from the wild is one less that can breed and produce young.
- If you already have a native amphibian at home as a pet, do not release it into the wild! It may have picked up bacteria, fungi, and diseases that can be spread to other amphibians in the wild!
- **NEVER** release a purchased or won amphibian into the wild! Most of these are exotic species that do not naturally occur in Alaska. Non-native species compete for the same resources as native species and in some cases they are even aggressive toward them! This is among the greatest problems facing amphibians. Either keep them for their entire lives or find them a good home. **NEVER RELEASE A PET AMPHIBIAN INTO THE WILD!**



INTERESTING FACT

The local Kiksetti and Kaach.adi Clans of the Stikine Tlingit claim the frog as their major crest. It is said that traditionally it would be almost exactly six weeks from the time the first frog called in the spring that the salmon would return to the river.