

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-CS-Y-17-2024

Issued at: Fairbanks, Wednesday,
August 14, 2024

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, August 16, 2024

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday,
December 31, 2024, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes all waters of the Yukon River drainage (excluding the Tanana River drainage) to sport fishing for chum salmon.

All chum salmon caught incidentally in the Yukon River drainage (excluding the Tanana River drainage) while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

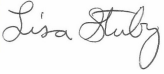
REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 73.010(b)(2) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, August 16 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, December 31, 2024:

5 AAC 73.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Yukon River Area.

(b)(2) salmon, other than king and chum salmon: the bag and possession limit is 10 fish, with no size limit; sport fishing for chum salmon is closed; chum salmon may not be retained or possessed; chum salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a chum salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: 

Lisa Stuby
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The number of fall chum salmon counted by the Pilot Station sonar is well-below the historical median and is projected to fall below the lower bound of the escapement goal of 300,000. As of August 12, an estimated 123,524 fall chum salmon were counted past the Pilot Station sonar, compared to the historical median of 347,698. In accordance with the *Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 01.249), when the projected run size of fall chum salmon is 300,000 fish or less, the commercial, personal use, and sport fish directed chum fisheries will be closed. Also, approximately 15-20% of Yukon River fall chum salmon spawn in Canada and these fish are managed through the *Yukon River Salmon Agreement* under the *Pacific Salmon Treaty*, which requires a minimum number of fish to cross into Canada and the 2024 run is anticipated to fall below treaty obligations. If inseason stock assessment information indicates that chum salmon escapement goals and subsistence needs in the Yukon River drainage will be met, sport fishing restrictions may be relaxed commensurate with run strength.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order 3-KS-Y-1-24 issued on March 19, 2024, closed the Yukon River drainage (excluding the Tanana River drainage) to sport fishing for king salmon and prohibited the use of bait in all Yukon River tributaries from March 21 through September 30, 2024, remains in effect.

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.