

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-U-4-24

Issued at: Fairbanks, Tuesday, March 26, 2024.

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, March 28, 2024.

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday, September 30, 2024, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes sport fishing for king salmon in all flowing waters of the Tanana River drainage. King salmon may not be targeted and those caught incidentally while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. In addition, the use of bait is prohibited in all Tanana River tributaries.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 74.010(b)(1), (c)(12), (d)(2), (5)(B), (15), (16)(B), and (18) are superseded and (d)(23) is added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday, March 28 through 11:59 p.m. Monday, September 30, 2024:

5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.

(b)(1) sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(c)(12) in the Goodpaster River drainage sport fishing for salmon is closed;

(d) In the Tanana River Management Area, the following special provisions to methods and means apply:

(2) in the Chatanika River and its tributaries, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

(5) in the Chena River and its tributaries, including Chena Slough (Badger Slough),
(B) the use of bait is prohibited;

(15) in the Salcha River and its tributaries, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

(16) in Shaw Creek,

(B) downstream from the Richardson Highway Bridge, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

(18) in the Tanana River within a two-mile radius of Shaw Creek, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

(23) in all Tanana River tributaries, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used.

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner



By delegation to: _____

Andrew Gryska
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

King salmon stocks in the Yukon River drainage, including the Tanana River drainage, continue to experience historically low productivity for both Canadian and Alaskan stocks. The 2024 king salmon run is not expected to meet escapement goals in the Tanana River drainage, nor provide for subsistence opportunity. The 2024 Yukon River drainage king salmon run is expected to be similar to the 2021 (129,180 king salmon), 2022 (51,000 king salmon), and 2023 runs (58,000 king salmon) – none of which was large enough to meet spawning goals. In the Tanana River drainage, the Chena and Salcha Rivers are the two largest producers of king salmon in Alaskan waters. The spawning escapement goal for the Salcha River is 3,300 – 6,500 king salmon and for the Chena River it is 3,300 – 5,700 king salmon. Last year, only 1,384 king salmon were estimated in the Salcha River and just 1,109 kings were estimated in the Chena River. Therefore, a preseason closure of sport fishing for king salmon in the Tanana River drainage is warranted.

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.