

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-CS-Y-13-2025

Issued at: Fairbanks, Monday, July 7, 2025

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 9, 2025

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, December 31, 2025, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.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The provisions of 5 AAC 73.010(b)(2) are superseded by this emergency order.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. Wednesday, July 9 through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, December 31, 2025:

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 summer 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 500,000. As of July 6, an estimated 262,739 summer chum salmon were counted past the Pilot Station sonar, compared to the historical median of 1,341,881. In accordance with the *Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 05.362), when the projected run size of summer chum salmon is 500,000 fish or less, the commercial, personal use, and sport fish directed chum fisheries will be closed. The pre-season forecast for fall chum salmon, which enter the Yukon River in late July, is also poor and is not expected to meet spawning escapement goals. If inseason stock assessment information indicates that chum salmon spawning 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-1-2025 issued on March 18, 2025, 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 31 through September 30, 2025, 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.