

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-Y-01-2025

Issued at: Fairbanks, Tuesday March 18, 2025

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, March 31, 2025

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, September 30, 2025, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.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 king salmon. All king salmon caught incidentally in the Yukon River drainage 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 Yukon River tributaries (excluding the Tanana River drainage).

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 73.010(b)(1) are superseded and 5 AAC 73.010(d)(3) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Monday, March 31 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, September 30, 2025:

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

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

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

(3) in all Yukon River tributaries, the use of bait is prohibited.

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner



by delegation to:

Lisa Stuby
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

King salmon stocks in the Yukon River drainage continue to experience historically low productivity. Approximately 40-50% of Yukon River king salmon spawn in Canada and these fish are managed through the *Yukon River Salmon Agreement*, which requires a minimum number of 42,500 king salmon to cross into Canada to ensure adequate numbers for spawning. This minimum number has not been met since 2019. Border passage in 2023 and 2024 were 14,752 and 24,183 king salmon, respectively, and were the second- and third-lowest on record. Due to the persistent low runs of Canadian-origin king salmon that have failed to meet conservation objectives, an April 2024 agreement between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada has closed the mainstem Yukon River to all directed commercial, sport, and personal use fisheries until at least 2030 as part of a stock rebuilding plan. Therefore, a preseason closure of sport fishing for king salmon in the Yukon 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.