

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 3-KS-V-03-25

**Issued at:** Fairbanks, Tuesday,  
March 18, 2025.

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

**Expiration Date:** 11:59 p.m. Thursday,  
August 31, 2025, unless superseded by  
subsequent emergency order.

**EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order closes sport fishing for king salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage (excluding Kuskokwim Bay drainages). 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, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used in the Kuskokwim River drainage.

**REGULATION:**

The provisions of 5 AAC 71.010(c)(3)(A) and (c)(3)(B) are superseded and (c)(10) and (d)(1)(G) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday, March 20 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, August 31, 2025:

**5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Kuskokwim – Goodnews Area.**

(c)(3) in the Aniak River drainage,

(A) sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(B) the bag and possession limit for pink, sockeye, chum, and coho salmon is three fish, with no size limit; however, the aggregate daily bag and possession limit, other than king salmon, may not exceed three salmon;

(c)(10) in the Kuskokwim River drainage, sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; king salmon must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish.

(d)(1)(G) only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used in the remainder of the Kuskokwim – Goodnews Area not specified in (d)(1)(A–F);

Douglas Vincent-Lang  
Commissioner



By delegation to: \_\_\_\_\_

John Chythlook  
Area Management Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:**

The *Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 07.365) allows for sport and commercial harvest opportunity on surplus king salmon in excess of escapement and subsistence needs after June 11. In 2024 the total estimated run for Kuskokwim River king salmon was approximately 176,619 and the spawning escapement was approximately 143,919. In 2024, substantial closures to the subsistence fishery were required to achieve the drainagewide escapement goal (65,000 – 120,000). For 2025, indications are that subsistence restrictions will again be required to achieve spawning escapement. Therefore, closing sport fishing for king salmon in the Kuskokwim 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.