

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-CS-U-18-24

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December 31, 2024, unless superseded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 Tanana River drainage to sport fishing for chum salmon. Chum 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.


REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 74.010(b)(2) are superseded by this emergency order.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 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.

(b)(2) salmon, other than king and chum salmon: the bag and possession limit is three 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: 
Andrew Gryska
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 median cumulative 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. Therefore, closure of the sport fishery is warranted throughout the Tanana River drainage. 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 26, 2024, closed sport fishing for king salmon in all flowing waters of the Tanana River drainage and prohibited the use of bait in all Tanana River tributaries from March 28 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.