SPORT FISHING Emergency Order

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

ALASKA DEPARTMENT **OF FISH & GAME**

Emergency Order No. 3-SS-U-25-22 **Issued at:** Fairbanks, Tuesday,

September 6, 2022

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, September 8, **Expiration Date:** 11:59 p.m. Saturday,

December 31, 2022, unless superseded 2022

by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes all waters of the Tanana River drainage to sport fishing for chum and coho salmon.

All chum and coho salmon caught incidentally in 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 74.010. (b)(2) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday, September 8 through 11:59 p.m. Friday, December 31, 2022:

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 salmon: the bag and possession limit is three fish, with no size limit; sport fishing for chum and coho salmon is closed; chum or coho salmon may not be retained or possessed; chum or coho salmon must be released immediately; a person may not remove a chum or coho salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

> Douglas Vincent-Lang Commissioner

By delegation to:

Andrew Gryska

Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Estimated passage of coho salmon past the Pilot Station sonar through September 5, 2022, was 89,570, which is well below the median cumulative count of 141,925. This year's coho salmon run size is projected to be near 100,000 fish, which is well below the historical average of 233,000 fish. The closure of the coho salmon sport fishery is warranted throughout the entire Tanana River drainage to ensure adequate spawning escapement. Chum salmon passage estimates at the Pilot Station Sonar continue to be substantially below historic averages for this time of year and this emergency order continues the sport fishery closure for chum salmon.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED: Emergency Order 3-CS-U-12-22 closed sport fishing for chum salmon in the Tanana River drainage from July 1 through December 31 and is superseded by this emergency order.

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.