

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-V-02-24

Issued at: Fairbanks, Tuesday,
March 19, 2024.

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, March 21, 2024.

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday,
July 25, 2024, unless superseded by subsequent
emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

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

All king salmon 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The provisions of 5 AAC 71.010(c)(3)(A) and (c)(3)(B) are superseded and (c)(10) and (d)(1)(G) are added by this emergency order.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 21 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, July 25, 2024:

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. In 2023 the total estimated run for Kuskokwim River king salmon was approximately 130,837 and the spawning escapement was approximately 103,989. In 2023, substantial closures to the subsistence fishery were required to achieve the drainagewide escapement goal (65,000 – 120,000). For 2024, 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.