

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-02-03

Issued at: Fairbanks, Thursday May 29,  
2003

Effective Date: 12:01 A.M. Friday, May 30, 2003

Expiration Date: December 31, 2003  
Unless superseded by subsequent  
Emergency Order.

### EXPLANATION:

This Emergency Order reduces the sport daily bag and possession limits for king salmon and chum salmon to either one king or one chum salmon in all waters of the Yukon River drainage effective 12:01 A.M., Friday, May 30, 2003.

All king or chum salmon caught that exceed the daily bag and possession limit of either one king or one chum salmon must be released immediately back into the water unharmed.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5AAC 70.022 (c) (1 and 2) are superseded by this Emergency Order. Under this Emergency Order, the following provisions are effective:

In all waters of the Yukon River drainage, effective 12:01 A.M. Friday, May 30, 2003 the daily bag and possession limits for king and chum salmon is either one king or one chum salmon per day.

Kevin C. Duffy  
Commissioner

by delegation to: \_\_\_\_\_  
John Burr  
Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim  
Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Poor runs of king and chum salmon to portions of the Yukon River drainage have failed to meet escapement goals since 1998. The preseason outlook for king and chum salmon returns to the Yukon River in 2003 is uncertain, but poor to below average runs are projected. The department cannot reliably determine the run strength of king and chum salmon until in-season assessment information is available.

The Board of Fisheries has directed the Department to manage Yukon River king and chum salmon stocks more conservatively. This preseason reduction of the sport fishing bag and possession limit to either one king or one chum salmon per day for the entire Yukon River drainage is consistent with the instructions provided by the Board of Fisheries. This action will provide additional protection to Yukon River king and chum salmon stocks. The Department will continue to evaluate in-season run strength and take appropriate management actions to ensure that escapement requirements are met.

DISTRIBUTION:

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