

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-Y-05-19

Issued at: Fairbanks, Tuesday, July 9, 2019

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 11, 2019

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday,
December 31, 2019, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order No. 3-KS-Y-03-19, issued on Thursday, May 2, 2019 and opens sport fishing for king salmon in the Yukon River drainage (excluding the Tanana River drainage) with a bag and possession limit of one fish 20 inches or greater in length, and an annual limit of one fish 20 inches or greater in length.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 73.010 (b)(1) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 11 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, December 31, 2019:

5 AAC 73.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Yukon River Area.

(b)(1) king salmon 20 inches or greater in length; bag and possession limit of one fish; annual limit of one fish; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006 (1);

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

by delegation to: _____

Lisa Stuby
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The *Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 05.360) (f) directs the sport fishery in the Yukon River drainage to be managed in coordination with the commercial and subsistence fisheries and therefore sport fishing restrictions necessary for conservation purposes will correspond to the level of abundance of king salmon. On May 11, 2019 the department closed the king salmon sport fishery in response to a below average run forecast and restrictions to subsistence fisheries. However, a greater than anticipated number of king salmon have passed the Pilot Station Sonar, which has resulted in a return to the full regulatory subsistence fishing schedule with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and the opportunity for king salmon caught incidentally in the directed chum salmon commercial fishery to be sold. With the better than anticipated king salmon run, lifting of subsistence fishery

restrictions, and the subsequent opportunity to sell king salmon caught in the commercial chum salmon fishery, the department is justified in rescinding the preseason sport fishing closure and providing some minimal king salmon harvest opportunity.

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.