

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-Y-2-2020

Issued at: Fairbanks, Wednesday, May 6, 2020

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, May 11, 2020

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2020, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes all waters of the Yukon River drainage (excluding the Tanana River drainage) to sport fishing for king salmon.

All king salmon caught incidentally in the Yukon River drainage (excluding 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 73.010. (b)(1) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Monday, May 11, 2020 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2020:

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

(b)(1) sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed. Any king salmon incidentally caught while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

by delegation to: _____

Lisa Stuby
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The 2020 preseason forecast (144,000–220,000 king salmon) indicates that the Yukon River king salmon run may be below average (1995–2019 average was 225,000 fish), and preseason restrictions to the subsistence fishery are needed to ensure adequate escapement in order to meet treaty obligations for Canadian origin fish. Therefore, preseason closure of sport fishing for king salmon in the Yukon River drainage is warranted. If inseason stock assessment information indicates that

the actual run will be at the upper end of the forecast and a majority of the king salmon escapement goals and subsistence needs in the Yukon River drainage will be met, sport fishing restrictions will be relaxed commensurate with run strength.

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.