

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-Y-2-2021

Issued at: Fairbanks, Wednesday, May 5, 2021

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, May 10, 2021

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2021, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.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 (b)(1) are superseded by this emergency order.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 10, 2021 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2021:

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*
Lisa Stuby
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The 2021 preseason forecast is for a drainagewide run size of 102,000–189,000 king salmon. A run of this size may result in reduced subsistence fishing opportunity and a failure to achieve treaty obligations for Canadian-origin king salmon. In 2020, with a higher king salmon run forecast, drainagewide escapement goals were not met despite harvest restrictions or closures in all Yukon River fisheries. Therefore, a preseason closure of sport fishing for king salmon in the Yukon River drainage is warranted. If inseason stock assessment information indicates that king salmon escapement goals and subsistence needs in the Yukon River drainage will be met, sport fishing restrictions may 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.