

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-SS-V-24-2022

Issued at: Fairbanks, Monday,
August 15, 2022

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, August 17,
2022.

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Saturday,
December 31, 2022, unless superseded
by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

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

All coho salmon caught incidentally in the Kuskokwim 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 71.010. (c)(3)(B) are superseded and (c)(12) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, August 17 through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, December 31, 2022:

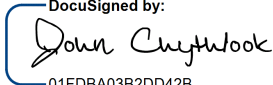
5 AAC 71.010. Season and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area.

(c)(3) in the Aniak River drainage,

(B) the bag and possession limit for pink and sockeye salmon is three fish, with no size limit; however, the aggregate daily bag and possession limit of pink and sockeye salmon, may not exceed three salmon;

(c)(12) in the Kuskokwim River drainage, sport fishing for coho salmon is closed; coho salmon may not be taken or possessed.

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: 
01FD8A03B2DD42B
John Chythlook

JUSTIFICATION:

The cumulative CPUE for coho salmon at the Bethel Test Fishery is the 2nd lowest on record since 2017, with 2017 being the lowest on record. As of August 14, only 747 coho salmon have been counted at the Bethel Test Fishery. On average, 77% of the coho salmon run has passed Bethel as of August 14. The coho salmon run to the Kuskokwim River drainage appears weak. Therefore, a closure of sport fishing for coho salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage and the prohibition of bait and multiple hooks is warranted to maximize spawning escapement.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED: Emergency Order 3-CS-V-17-22 closes all waters of the Kuskokwim River drainage (excluding the Kuskokwim Bay drainages) to sport fishing for chum salmon. All chum salmon caught incidentally in the Kuskokwim River drainage while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. This emergency order remains in effect.

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.