

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-CS-Y-4-2023

Issued at: Fairbanks, Wednesday,
March 29, 2023

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, April 5, 2023

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Saturday,
September 30, 2023, unless superseded by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 chum salmon.

All chum 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The provisions of 5 AAC 73.010(b)(2) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, April 5 through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, September 30, 2023:

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

(b)(2) salmon, other than king salmon: the bag and possession limit is 10 fish, with no size limit; sport fishing for chum salmon is closed; chum salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a chum salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner



By delegation to: _____

Lisa Stuby
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Chum salmon stocks throughout western Alaska continue to experience low productivity. The 2023 Yukon River drainage pre-season forecast for summer chum salmon is 557,000 fish, which is near the lower bound of the inriver escapement goal of 500,000–1,200,000. Per 5 AAC 05.362(c) *Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan*, when the projected run size of summer chum salmon is 650,000 fish or less, the commercial, personal use, and sport fish directed summer chum fisheries will be closed. Closures or restrictions to the subsistence fisheries is anticipated. If inseason stock assessment information indicates that chum salmon escapement goals and subsistence needs in the Yukon River drainage will be met, sport fishing restrictions may be relaxed commensurate with run strength.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order 3-KS-Y-3-23 issued on March 29, 2023, closes the Yukon River drainage (excluding the Tanana River drainage) to sport fishing for king salmon from April 5 through September 30. In addition, the use of bait is prohibited in all Yukon River tributaries (excluding the Tanana River drainage).

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.