

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 3-KS-Y-3-2023

**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September 30, 2023, unless superseded by  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 king salmon. In addition, the use of bait is prohibited in all Yukon River tributaries (excluding the Tanana River drainage).

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The provisions of 5 AAC 73.010(b)(1) are superseded and 5 AAC 73.010(d)(3) are added by this emergency order.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)(1) sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(d) In the Yukon River Area, the following special provisions to methods and means apply:

(3) in all Yukon River tributaries, the use of bait is prohibited.

Douglas Vincent-Lang  
Commissioner



by delegation to:

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Lisa Stuby  
Area Management Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:**

King salmon stocks throughout western Alaska continue to experience low productivity. The 2023 preseason run forecast for the Yukon River drainage is 62,000–104,000 fish. A run this size is not expected to meet spawning escapement goals, will require reduced subsistence fishing opportunity, and will likely result in a failure to achieve treaty obligations for Canadian-origin king salmon. 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.

**PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:**

Emergency Order 3-KS-Y-4-23 issued on March 29, 2023, closes the Yukon River drainage (excluding the Tanana River drainage) to sport fishing for chum salmon from April 5 through September 30.

**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.