

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-SS-Y-21-23

Issued at: Fairbanks, Tuesday,
August 29, 2023

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, August 31,
2023

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday,
December 31, 2023, unless superseded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 and coho salmon.

All chum and coho 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The provisions of 5 AAC 73.010(b)(2) are superseded by this emergency order.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. Thursday, August 31 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, December 31, 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 and coho salmon is closed; chum or coho salmon may not be retained or possessed; chum or coho salmon must be released immediately; a person may not remove a chum or coho salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner



By delegation to: _____

Lisa Stuby
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Estimated passage of coho salmon past the Pilot Station sonar through August 28, 2023 was 28,862, which is well below the median cumulative count of 109,947, and is the second lowest on record to date. Therefore, the closure of the coho salmon sport fishery is warranted throughout the entire Yukon River drainage, excluding the Tanana River, to protect spawning escapement.

Fall chum salmon passage estimate to date at the Pilot Station Sonar (249,611 fish) is substantially below historic averages for this time of year. The lower end of the escapement goal is 300,000 fall chum salmon and a harvestable surplus is unlikely. Treaty obligations for Canadian-origin fall chum will likely not be achieved. Subsistence harvest opportunity for fall chum salmon has been heavily restricted. This emergency order continues the sport fishery closure for chum salmon.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED: Emergency Order 3-CS-Y-4-2023 closed sport fishing for chum salmon in the Yukon River drainage (excluding the Tanana River drainage) from April 5 through September 30, 2023 and is superseded by this emergency order.

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