

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 3-CS-V-02-23

**Issued at:** Fairbanks, Wednesday,  
March 29, 2023.

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

**Expiration Date:** 11:59 p.m. Sunday,  
December 31, 2023, unless superseded by  
subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area to sport fishing for chum salmon from April 5 through December 31. All chum salmon caught incidentally in the Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area 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The provisions of 5 AAC 71.010(b)(2) and (c)(3)(B) are superseded and (c)(11) is added by this emergency order.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. Sunday, December 31, 2023:

#### **5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Kuskokwim–Goodnews Area.**

(b)(2) salmon, other than chum and king salmon: the bag and possession limit is five fish, with no size limit;

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

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

(c)(11) in the Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area, sport fishing for chum salmon is closed; chum salmon may not be taken or possessed; chum salmon 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: \_\_\_\_\_

John Chythlook  
Area Management Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:**

In 2022, the chum salmon return to the Kuskokwim River drainage was extremely low and subsistence fishing opportunity for chum salmon was very restricted. The Bethel Test Fishery is the primary assessment tool for chum salmon and in 2022 the cumulative CPUE was 2,192, which was well below the 10-year average of 4,906. Anecdotal information from subsistence and sport fisheries on the Kanektok, Goodnews, and Arolik Rivers also indicated very poor returns. For 2023, indications are that chum salmon returns within the Kuskokwim – Goodnews Area will again be very poor. Therefore, closing sport fishing for chum salmon in the Kuskokwim – Goodnews Area is warranted.

**PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:** Emergency Order 3-KS-V-01-23 issued March 29, 2023, closes the Kuskokwim River drainage (excluding Kuskokwim Bay drainages) to sport fishing for king salmon from April 5 through December 31. In addition, only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used in the Kuskokwim–Goodnews Area.

**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.