

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-V-01-23

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December 31, 2023, unless superseded by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 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.

All king 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The provisions of 5 AAC 71.010(c)(3)(A) and (c)(3)(B) are superseded and (c)(10) and (d)(1)(G) are added by this emergency order.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. Sunday, December 31, 2023:

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

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

(A) sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(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, other than chum and king salmon, may not exceed three salmon;

(c)(10) in the Kuskokwim River drainage, sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be taken or possessed; king salmon must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish.

(d)(1)(G) only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure may be used in the remainder of the Kuskokwim – Goodnews Area not specified in (d)(1)(A–F);

Douglas Vincent
Commissioner



By delegation to: _____

John Chythlook

JUSTIFICATION:

The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 07.365) allows for sport and commercial harvest opportunity on surplus king salmon in excess of escapement and subsistence needs. In 2022 the estimated total run for Kuskokwim River king salmon was approximately 143,622 and the spawning escapement was approximately 106,000. In 2022, substantial closures to the subsistence fishery were required to achieve the drainagewide escapement goal (65,000 – 120,000). For 2023, indications are that the Kuskokwim River king salmon run will be similar to 2022 and subsistence restrictions will again be required. Therefore, closing sport fishing for king salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage and the prohibition of bait and multiple hooks to minimize incidental hooking mortality is warranted.

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.