

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-CS-U-7-23

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December 31, 2023, unless superseded by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 sport fishing for chum salmon in all waters of the Tanana River drainage. Chum salmon may not be targeted and those caught incidentally while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 74.010(b)(2) are superseded by this emergency order.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. Sunday, December 31, 2023:

5 AAC 74.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.

(b)(2) salmon, other than king salmon: the bag and possession limit is three fish, with no size limit; sport fishing for chum salmon is closed; chum salmon may not be retained or possessed; 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: _____

Andrew Gryska
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Chum salmon stocks throughout western Alaska continue to experience poor returns. The 2023 Yukon River drainage preseason 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. Restrictions to the subsistence fisheries is anticipated for the Yukon and Tanana River drainages. 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 within the Tanana River drainage may be relaxed commensurate with run strength.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order 3-KS-U-6-23 issued on March 29, 2023 closes sport fishing for king salmon in all flowing waters of the Tanana River drainage from April 5 through September 30. In addition, the use of bait is prohibited in all Tanana River tributaries.

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.