

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-U-6-23

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September 30, 2023, unless superseded by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 sport fishing for king salmon in all flowing waters of the Tanana River drainage. King 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. In addition, the use of bait is prohibited in all Tanana River tributaries.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 74.010(b)(1), (c)(12), (d)(2), (5)(B), (15), (16)(B), and (18) are superseded and (d)(23) is added by this emergency order.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. Saturday, September 30, 2023:

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

(b)(1) sport fishing for king salmon is closed; king salmon may not be retained or possessed; king salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a king salmon from the water before releasing the fish;

(c)(12) in the Goodpaster River drainage sport fishing for salmon is closed;

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

(2) in the Chatanika River and its tributaries, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

(5) in the Chena River and its tributaries, including Chena Slough (Badger Slough),
(B) the use of bait is prohibited;

(15) in the Salcha River and its tributaries, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used;

(16) in Shaw Creek,

(B) downstream from the Richardson Highway Bridge, the use of bait is prohibited;

(18) in the Tanana River within a two-mile radius of Shaw Creek, bait may be used only on single hooks with a gap size larger than three-quarters of an inch;

(23) in all Tanana River tributaries, the use of bait is prohibited.

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner



By delegation to: _____
Andrew Gryska
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

King salmon stocks throughout western Alaska continue to experience low runs. The 2023 preseason run forecast for the Yukon River drainage (including the Tanana drainage) is 62,000–104,000 fish. A run this size is not expected to meet any spawning escapement goals, including the Chena and Salcha Rivers, and will require reduced subsistence fishing opportunity. Therefore, a preseason closure of sport fishing for king salmon in the Tanana 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-CS-U-7 issued on March 29, 2023, closes the Tanana River drainage to sport fishing for chum salmon from April 5 through December 31.

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.