

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-CS-U-17-26

Issued at: Fairbanks, Wednesday,
July 8, 2026

Effective Date: 12:01 p.m. Wednesday, July 8, 2026

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday,
December 31, 2026, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order 3-CS-U-09-2026, issued June 17, 2026, and opens sport fishing for chum salmon in the Tanana River drainage. Emergency Order 3-CS-U-09-2026 was implemented because the preseason forecast for the summer chum salmon run was well-below the lower end of the escapement goal; however, the run has exceeded expectations, and the closure is no longer warranted.

REGULATION:

Emergency Order 3-CS-U-09-2026 is rescinded and the provisions of 5 AAC 74.010(b)(2) will apply:

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;

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____



Andrew Gryska
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The sport fishery for chum salmon was closed on June 22, 2026 because initial run strength was weak and projected to be below the escapement goal of 500,000 to 1,200,000. However, the summer chum salmon run has exceeded expectations and as of July 7 over 769,000 summer chum salmon are estimated to have passed the Pilot Station sonar, and inseason projections suggest the run size may reach 1.1 million fish. Based on the Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 05.362), when the projected run size of summer chum salmon is more than 500,000 fish, but not more than 650,000 fish, and indicators show that individual escapement goals and subsistence needs will be met, the commissioner may open, by emergency order, a summer chum salmon fishery for commercial, sport, or personal use fishing. With the greater than anticipated summer chum salmon run and lifting of the subsistence fishing closures, the Department is justified in rescinding the sport fishing closure.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:

Emergency Order 3-CS-U-09-2026 is rescinded. Emergency Order 3-KS-U-01-2026 issued on February 18, 2026, which closed the Tanana River drainage to sport fishing for king salmon from February 19 through September 30, 2026, 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.