

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-CS-Y-16-2026

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December 31, 2026, unless superseded by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-Y-04-2026, issued May 13, 2026, and opens sport fishing for chum salmon in the Yukon River drainage (excluding the Tanana River drainage). This closure was implemented because the preseason forecast was for a summer chum salmon run that would be well-below the lower end of the escapement goal (500,000 to 1,200,000) due to poor primary parent years from 2021 and 2022. However, the run has exceeded expectations, and the closure is no longer warranted.

REGULATION:

Emergency Order 3-CS-Y-04-2026 is rescinded and the provisions of 5 AAC 73.010(b)(2) will apply:

5 AAC 73.010. Seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Yukon River Area.

(b)(2) salmon, other than king salmon: the bag and possession limit is 10 fish, with no size limit;

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:  _____
Lisa Stuby
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The sport fishery for chum salmon was closed on May 15, 2026, because the drainagewide preseason forecast of summer chum salmon run was 345,600 fish, which would be well-below the escapement goal of 500,000 to 1,200,000. However, the summer chum salmon run has exceeded expectations and as of July 6, 2026, over 740,000 summer chum salmon are estimated to have passed the Pilot Station sonar, and inseason projections suggest the run size will likely exceed 900,000 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Emergency Order 3-CS-Y-04-2026 is rescinded. Emergency Order 3-KS-Y-01-2026 issued on February 19, 2026, which closed the Yukon River drainage (excluding 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.