

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 3-CS-Y-18-2026

**Issued at:** Fairbanks, Wednesday,  
July 15, 2026

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, July 22, 2026

**Expiration Date:** 11:59 p.m. Tuesday,  
December 31, 2024, unless superseded by  
subsequent emergency order.

**EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order closes all waters of the Yukon River drainage (excluding the Tanana River drainage) to sport fishing for chum salmon.

All chum salmon caught incidentally in the Yukon River drainage (excluding the Tanana River drainage) while fishing for other species may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.

**REGULATION:**

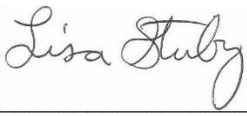
The provisions of 5 AAC 73.010(b)(2) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, August 16 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, December 31, 2024:

**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 and chum salmon: the bag and possession limit is 10 fish, with no size limit; sport fishing for chum salmon is closed; 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: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Lisa Stuby  
Area Management Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:**

The projected return of fall chum salmon is weak, and as a precautionary measure, subsistence and sport fisheries for fall chum salmon will close to attain spawning escapement and meet treaty obligations. Approximately 15-20% of Yukon River fall chum salmon spawn in Canada and these fish are managed through the *Yukon River Salmon Agreement* under the *Pacific Salmon Treaty*, which requires a minimum number of fish to cross into Canada and the 2026 run is anticipated to fall below treaty obligations. If inseason stock assessment information indicates that fall chum salmon escapement goals are projected to be achieved and subsistence opportunity in the Yukon River drainage is provided, sport fishing restrictions may be relaxed commensurate with run strength and subsistence restrictions.

**PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:**

Emergency Order 3-KS-Y-01-2026 closed the Yukon River drainage (excluding the Tanana River drainage) to sport fishing for king salmon from February 19 through September 30. Emergency order 3-CS-Y-16-2026 reopened the chum salmon fishery effective July 8, 2026.

**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.