

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-SS-V-22-26

Issued at: Fairbanks, Friday,
August 7, 2026.

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Sunday, August 9, 2026.

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December 31, 2026, unless superseded by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

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes sport fishing for coho salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage (excluding Kuskokwim Bay drainages). Coho salmon may not be targeted and coho salmon 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The provisions of 5 AAC 71.010 (c)(3)(B) are superseded and (c)(10) and are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Sunday, August 9, 2026, through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2026:

5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the Kuskokwim – Goodnews Area.

(c)(3) in the Aniak River drainage,

(B) the bag and possession limit for pink, sockeye, and chum salmon is three fish, with no size limit; however, the aggregate daily bag and possession limit may not exceed three salmon;

(c)(10) in the Kuskokwim River drainage, sport fishing for coho salmon is closed; coho salmon may not be taken or possessed; coho salmon must be released immediately; a person may not remove a coho salmon from the water before releasing the fish.

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:



John Chythlook
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The cumulative count of coho at the Kuskokwim River sonar as of August 6, is only 56,293 fish. Historically, 27-54% of the coho salmon run has passed Bethel through August 6. The coho salmon return to the Kuskokwim River drainage appears weak this year. Therefore, a closure of sport fishing for coho salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage is warranted to help maximize spawning escapement.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 3 Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701, (907) 459-7207.