

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-KS-U-01-26

Issued at: Fairbanks, Tuesday,
February 18, 2026.

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, February 19, 2026.

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m.
Wednesday, September 30, 2026, 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superseded by subsequent emergency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.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 74.010(b)(1) and (c)(12) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday, February 19 through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, September 30, 2026:

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;

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner



By delegation to: _____

Brandy Baker
Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

King salmon stocks in the Yukon River drainage, including the Tanana River drainage, continue to experience historically low productivity for both Canadian and Alaskan stocks. The 2026 king salmon run is not expected to meet escapement goals in the Tanana River drainage. Within the Tanana River drainage, the Chena and Salcha Rivers are the two largest producers of king salmon. The spawning escapement goal for the Salcha River is 3,300 – 6,500 king salmon and for the Chena River it is 3,300 – 5,700 king salmon. In 2025, the Salcha River had an estimated escapement of 1,832 king salmon and the Chena River had an estimated escapement of 1,247 king salmon. King salmon escapement goals for both rivers have not been achieved for the past 6 years. Therefore, a preseason closure of sport fishing for king salmon in the Tanana River drainage is warranted.

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.