

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 3-KS-I-10-26

**Issued at:** Glennallen, Tuesday, June 23, 2026

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m. Thursday, June 25, 2026

**Expiration Date:** 11:59 p.m. August 10, 2026, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order reduces the annual limit for king salmon 20 inches or greater in length in the Upper Copper River drainage from four to one fish. Any king salmon harvested from the Upper Copper River drainage prior to June 25 do not count toward the one fish annual limit.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 52.022. (a)(3)(A) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday, June 25:

#### **5 AAC 52.022. General provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.**

(a)(3) king salmon: may be taken only from January 1 – July 19 as follows;

(A) 20 inches or greater in length; bag and possession limit of one fish; annual limit of one fish; a harvest record is required as specified in 5 AAC 75.006;

Douglas Vincent-Lang  
Commissioner

By delegation to: TRH  
Tracy R. Hansen  
Area Management Biologist

### JUSTIFICATION:

The *Copper River King Salmon Fishery Management Plan* (5 AAC 24.361) directs the department to manage the Copper River fisheries to achieve a sustainable escapement goal of 21,000–31,000 king salmon. The 2026 king salmon run to the Copper River appears to be weak. As of June 20, a total of 15,243 large king salmon have been counted past the Miles Lake sonar. This is the lowest, large king salmon cumulative count on record for this date since species apportionment at the sonar project began in 2019. The Native Village of Eyak (NVE) fish wheel capture rates at Baird Canyon and fish wheel recapture rates at Canyon Creek also indicate low abundance. Because king salmon abundance may be insufficient to allow unrestricted harvest in the sport fishery and achieve the lower end of the escapement goal, restricting the Upper Copper River drainage king salmon sport fishery 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) 459-7357, and the Glennallen Area Office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, PO Box 47, Glennallen, AK 99588, (907) 822-3309.