

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 3-CS-Y-04-2026

**Issued at:** Fairbanks, Wednesday,  
May 13, 2026

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m. Friday, May 15, 2026

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December 31, 2026, unless superseded by  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

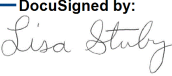
The provisions of 5 AAC 73.010(b)(2) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, May 15 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2026:

#### **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 may not be retained or possessed; 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: \_\_\_\_\_

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Lisa Stuby  
Area Management Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:**

The drainagewide preseason forecast for the summer chum salmon run is 345,600 fish (160,000 to 580,000), which is well-below the escapement goal of 500,000 to 1,200,000. In accordance with the *Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan* (5 AAC 05.362), when the projected run size of summer chum salmon is 500,000 fish or less, the commercial, personal use, and sport directed chum fisheries will be closed. Also, the primary parent years from 2021 and 2022 did not meet the lower end of the escapement goal with 2021 being the lowest run on record. As a result, the subsistence fishery for summer chum salmon will close on June 1. If inseason stock assessment information indicates that chum salmon spawning escapement goals and subsistence needs in the Yukon River drainage will be met, sport fishing restrictions may be relaxed commensurate with run strength.

**PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED:**

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.