

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-CS-V-17-2022

Issued at: Fairbanks, Wednesday,
June 29, 2022

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 1, 2022

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Saturday,
December 31, 2022, unless superseded
by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes all waters of the Kuskokwim River drainage (excluding the Kuskokwim Bay drainages) to sport fishing for chum salmon. All chum salmon caught incidentally in the Kuskokwim 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 71.010. (c)(3)(B) are superseded and (c)(11) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 1 through 11:59 p.m. Saturday, December 31, 2022:

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 coho salmon is three fish, with no size limit; however, the aggregate daily bag and possession limit of salmon, other than king and chum salmon, may not exceed three salmon;

(c)(11) in the Kuskokwim River drainage, sport fishing for chum salmon is closed; chum salmon may not be taken or possessed.



Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

JUSTIFICATION:

The cumulative CPUE for chum salmon at the Bethel Test Fishery is the 3rd lowest on record since 2020, with 2021 being the lowest on record. As of June 26, only 800 chum salmon have been counted on the sonar located near Bethel. On average, 21% of the chum salmon run has passed Bethel as of June 27. The chum salmon run in the Kuskokwim River appears weak. Therefore, a closure of sport fishing in the Kuskokwim River drainage is warranted to protect and maximize chum salmon spawning escapement.

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY ORDERS AFFECTED: Emergency Order 3-KS-V-09-22 closes sport fishing for king salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage from June 12 through July 25. Only one unbaited, single-hook, artificial lure can be used in the Kuskokwim-Goodnews Area under this emergency order. This emergency order 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.