

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-4-27-26

Issued at: Kodiak, Monday, June 22, 2026

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, June 24,
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December 31, 2026, unless superseded by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 sockeye salmon in the Buskin River drainage. This includes catch and release fishing.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 64.022(b)(13) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, June 24 through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2026:

5 AAC 64.022. Waters; seasons; bag, possession, annual, and size limits; and special provisions for the Kodiak Area.

(b)(14) the Buskin River drainage is closed to sport fishing for sockeye salmon. A sockeye salmon caught must be released immediately; a person may not remove a sockeye salmon from the water before releasing the fish.

Doug Vincent-Lang,
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Mark Witteveen,
Kodiak Assistant Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The biological escapement goal (BEG) for sockeye salmon in the Buskin River drainage is 5,000 to 8,000 fish. Through June 21, 2026, the weir count was only 916 sockeye salmon and based on historical run timing, the run is typically 46% complete and expected to reach its peak in the next week. The weir was installed later than normal, but it is estimated that only 9% of the run was not accounted for. In recent years, every instance that escapement was less than 1,000 fish during the window of time that is comparable to the 2026 escapement estimate of 916 sockeye, the escapement goal was not achieved. With a poor forecast, the uncertainty of incomplete counts, and a poor run to date, the escapement goal is not anticipated to be achieved. Therefore, it is warranted to close the sport fishery in an effort to achieve the escapement goal.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.