

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

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Kotzebue Commercial Fishery Announcement #11

KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING TO OPEN ON SUNDAY

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 8 hours on Sunday, August 16, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. in the Kotzebue District.

The commercial catch on Thursday was 9,802 chum salmon by 44 permit holders fishing. The catch was the third highest daily catch this past week and this season. The highest daily catch was on Tuesday when 13,216 chums were caught, and the second highest daily catch was on Sunday when 11,721 chums were caught.

The catch so far this season is just over 118,000 chum salmon by 65 permit holders. This year the harvest is expected to be less than 200,000 chum salmon and less than half the department forecast of a harvest of 450,000 to 650,000 chum salmon.

The Kobuk River test fish chum salmon catch index at Kiana had some of the best catches of the season this past week but still ranks second lowest in the 28-year project history. Test net catches are expected to improve because of the reduced commercial fishing time the last two weeks.

The department expects commercial catches to decrease this coming week. Last year there was a strong tail end of the chum salmon run and commercial catch this coming week should have the second highest daily catches for a week compared to this past week.

If you have any questions concerning the fishery you can call the Kotzebue office at 442-3420, or the Commercial Fisheries office in Nome at 1-800-560-2271.

COVID-19

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 17, and 18, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>