

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: August 25, 2020

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Kotzebue Commercial Fishery Announcement #15

UPCOMING KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING PERIODS

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 8 hours daily on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday in the Kotzebue District. All fishing periods will be from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

The commercial catch on Sunday was 3,500 chums and on Monday was 3,100 chums by 29 permit holders for both fishing periods. The catch so far this season is just over 144,000 chum salmon by 68 permit holders and the daily catch has been declining since the usual peak catches the second week of August.

This will be the first year since 2009 that the commercial catch has fallen below 200,000 chum salmon. Age analysis of commercial catch samples has shown that the 4-year-old chum salmon return was very poor this year.

The weather forecast looks favorable for the remainder of the week and instead of commercial fishing every other day into early next week there will be consecutive daily periods this week and the final period of the season will be Friday, August 28.

The Kobuk River test fish chum salmon catch index at Kiana is on track to go over the minimum 600 index points and is projected to finish third lowest in the 28-year project history with the limited commercial fishing schedule.

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/>