

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Sam Rabung, Director

Headquarters Office
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: July 18, 2020

CONTACT: Jim Menard or Kevin Clark
Kotzebue Area Manager & Asst. Area Manager
(907) 442-3420 (800) 560-2271

Kotzebue Commercial Fishery Announcement #3

KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING TO REOPEN

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 10 hours daily from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. from Sunday, July 19 through Friday, July 24 in the Kotzebue District.

Three buyers are registered to buy salmon in the Kotzebue Sound District and two of three buyers have bought fish to date.

Through 7 fishing periods the commercial catch was 8,125 chums. The daily average number of permit holders fishing was 11 compared to 30 permit holders fishing the same time last year. This year's catch was less than 30% of the catch when compared to last year through the first 7 fishing periods. However, with the reduced fishing effort and fishing 2 hours less daily this year the catch per unit of effort (CPUE) was only slightly below last year.

Although the forecast was for another very good harvest in Kotzebue the chum runs and harvests throughout western Alaska have been much lower than were forecast for this season. Based on the chum harvests to date this trend has also been occurring in Kotzebue.

The Kobuk River test fish crew from Kiana is scheduled to begin fishing later this 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/>