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## **Advisory Announcement**

*For Immediate Release: August 12, 2020*

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(907) 442-3420 (800) 560-2271**

### **Kotzebue Commercial Fishery Announcement #10**

#### **KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING TO OPEN ON THURSDAY**

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 8 hours on Thursday, August 13, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. in the Kotzebue District.

The commercial catch on Tuesday was 13,216 chum salmon by 48 permit holders fishing. The catch was the highest daily catch of the season and the most permit holders fishing.

The catch so far this season is just over 108,000 chum salmon by 62 permit holders. This year the harvest is expected to be less than half the department forecast of a harvest of 450,000 to 650,000 chum salmon.

Age analysis of the commercial chum salmon scale samples show that the 4-year-old component of this year's chum salmon run was much weaker than expected. Most of the chum salmon run to the Kotzebue District is of 4-year-old and 5-year-old fish and that would be from the parent-years of 2016 and 2015 and both years had good escapements.

The Kobuk River test fish chum salmon catch index at Kiana has started to increase but 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 the best commercial catches of the season this week based on run timing models of recent years and next week the catch should start to decrease. However, last year there was a strong tail end of the chum salmon run and next week's commercial catch could be like last year with the second highest weekly catches of the season.

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/>