

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement
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KOTZEBUE SPECIAL ADVISORY ANNOUNCEMENT

MARINE WATER FISHING CLOSURE

This is a reminder to all commercial and subsistence fishers that the area offshore of the Kotzebue airport's main runway to one nautical mile out in the ocean is closed to all commercial and subsistence fishing. Fishing boats and other marine vessels may still transit through the closed fishing area, but no fishing gear can be in the water in the closed area.

The reason for the closure is that fishing often attracts birds that can create a hazardous situation for aircraft. This fishing closure is in effect for both commercial and subsistence fishing and will remain in effect until mid-October.

The closed area is a rectangular area defined from the Weather Service Dome, south of the main runway at the Kotzebue airport, to the NANA building north of the same runway and extending westerly one nautical mile out into the ocean approximately perpendicular to the beach.

Commercial salmon fishing is scheduled to begin on July 11 and two buyers have registered to buy.

If you have any questions concerning this news release or 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 Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, commercial and subsistence fishing is considered essential and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial and subsistence fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>