

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement
For Immediate Release: July 17, 2021

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Kotzebue Commercial Fishery Advisory Announcement #2
KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING TO REOPEN

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 8 hours daily from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Sunday, July 18 through Tuesday, July 20 in the Kotzebue Sound District.

An average of 8 permit holders fished daily last week, and last year during the first week of commercial fishing an average of 12 permit holders fished daily. Commercial fishing was open for 48 hours the past week, and last year fishing was open for 60 hours during the first week of fishing. Even with permit holders fishing shorter hours this year the catch per unit of effort (CPUE) decreased nearly 20% during the first week of commercial fishing compared to the same time last year.

Two buyers purchased salmon last week and the harvest was 3,345 chum salmon and was less than half the harvest during the first week of fishing last year. The average weight of chum salmon the past week was 7.8 pounds, and this was the first time the average weight, during the first week of commercial fishing, was below 8 pounds since 2012.

The Kobuk River test fish crew based in Kiana began fishing on Thursday and catches through Saturday morning were 11 chums and 52 sheefish.

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 Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, commercial fishing is considered essential 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 Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>