

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**2014 Kotzebue Sound Salmon News Release # 6
KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING OPENINGS**

Commercial salmon fishing will open in the Kotzebue District for several 8-hour fishing periods.

Commercial salmon fishing will be open from 4 p.m. until midnight on Monday, July 21 and reopen for 8 hours from 4 p.m. until midnight on Tuesday, July 22. There will no fishing on Wednesday and commercial salmon fishing will reopen for 8 hours from 4 p.m. until midnight on Thursday, July 24.

Preliminary catch figures through the first 7 fishing periods were nearly 76,000 chum salmon and 67 permit holders fishing. The catch and fishing effort were well above average for this early in the season, but the catch per fishermen was average. The number of permit holders fishing so far this season has already passed last season when 66 permit holders fished at least one opening during 2013.

The Fish & Game crew has begun test fishing on the Kobuk River in Kiana to monitor the escapement. At this time the chum salmon catch index ranks sixth best out of 22 years, but is starting to drop, and is likely showing the effect of the commercial fishing effort. To allow for sufficient escapement the department will continue with one or two day closures to commercial fishing during the week to allow a window of opportunity for fish to pass through the district to provide for subsistence and escapement.

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.

Good Luck and Good Fishing!