

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:
Jim Menard, Area Management Biologist
Esther Henry, Office Assistant
Phone: (907) 443-5167 or 1-800-560-2271
Fax: (907) 443-5893

Nome Area Office
P.O. Box 1148
Nome, Alaska 99762
Date Issued: 7/23/2014
Time: 4:00 p.m.

2014 Kotzebue Sound Salmon News Release # 7

KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING OPENINGS

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

In addition to Thursday's night 8-hour fishing period previously announced, commercial salmon fishing will reopen for 6 hours from 6 p.m. until midnight on Friday, July 25. There will be no commercial salmon fishing on Saturday. Commercial salmon fishing will open for 6 hours from 6 p.m. until midnight on Sunday, July 27 and reopen for 8 hours from 4 p.m. until midnight on July 28.

The end of July and the first week of August are historically the peak weeks of harvest in the commercial salmon fishery and fishermen are reminded to check with their buyers to make sure they have sufficient capacity to purchase their catch. Some buyers may not be able to purchase salmon throughout an entire period because of reaching capacity.

Preliminary catch figures through the first 10 fishing periods were nearly 124,000 chum salmon and 80 permit holders fishing. The catch and fishing effort have been well above average, but the catch per fishermen was average.

At this time the chum salmon catch index ranks is still ranking sixth best out of 22 years, but has continued to drop from early season catches. Subsistence fishing on the Kobuk River has been slow, but high water conditions have been hampering subsistence activities according to reports the department has received. 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.

Good Luck and Good Fishing!