

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
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Nome, Alaska 99762
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2014 Kotzebue Sound Salmon News Release # 9

KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING OPENING

The next commercial salmon fishing period in the Kotzebue District will be for 5 hours from 6 p.m. until 11 p.m. on Thursday, July 31.

The preliminary commercial harvest figures from Wednesday were 18,500 chum salmon taken by 66 permit holders.

Preliminary catch through the first 15 fishing periods was approximately 264,000 chum salmon and 80 permit holders fishing. The catch and fishing effort have been well above average.

The catch will likely blow by the department forecast of 250,000 to 275,000 chum salmon with tonight's opening. With three weeks of commercial fishing complete and another month left the fishery is on track for a possible Top 5 greatest harvest.

The end of July and the first week of August are historically the peak weeks of harvest in the commercial salmon fishery. Monday night's fishing period had nearly one-quarter of the commercial harvest to date. There is always the possibility of another big fishing period so it is very important for fishermen 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. If fishermen are unable to sell their fish they must make use of salmon for subsistence or personal use.

Salmon catches at the department test fish project in Kiana have skyrocketed the last several days and through the end of July rank the best in 22-year project history.

Good Luck and Good Fishing!