

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2014 Kotzebue Sound Salmon News Release # 11

KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING OPENINGS

The next commercial salmon fishing periods in the Kotzebue District will be for 4 hours from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday.

Based on chum salmon catches in both the commercial fishery and the Kobuk River test fishing project the department is not planning on having a mid-week closure to commercial fishing this week. However, further fishing times may be adjusted based on commercial catches.

Last night's catch was nearly 33,000 chum salmon by 60 permit holders.

The department's forecast was a commercial harvest 250,000 to 275,000 chum salmon for the 2014 salmon season. That was reached the end of July when 282,000 chum salmon were harvested by 65 permit holders. Through Sunday, August 3 the harvest was just over 337,000 chum salmon and the commercial salmon fishery is on track for a Top 5 harvest. As of now the commercial chum salmon harvest ranks ninth highest in the 53-year history of the Kotzebue fishery.

Chum salmon catches at the department test fish project in Kiana have been on a record pace since last week and this season's catches are the highest in the 22-year project history.

The commercial catches last week and this week should be the best of the season as the Noatak River chum salmon continue to build and combine with Kobuk River bound chum salmon. So unless the Noatak River chum salmon run falls flat the department expects commercial fishing will continue with possibly only a one day closure on Saturday.

Good Luck and Good Fishing!