

**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: 8/19/2014
Time: 11:00 a.m.

**2014 Kotzebue Sound Salmon News Release # 22
KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING OPENING**

The next commercial salmon fishing period in the Kotzebue District will be for 3 hours from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. on Tuesday, August 19.

Last night's catch was over 16,000 chum salmon by 56 permit holders. The total harvest this season is over 573,000 chum salmon and ranks third greatest all-time. The tail end of the run continues to be strong and this year's harvest should exceed 600,000 chum salmon for the first time since 1981.

Fishermen are reminded to check with their buyers to make sure they are buying tonight and that they have sufficient capacity to purchase their catch. There will likely be two buyers tonight. The situation is changing as to how many buyers will be buying fish during openings during the coming week so please confirm with your buyer that there is a market for your catch. Some buyers may not be able to purchase salmon throughout the entire period because of reaching capacity. If the buyer refuses to buy a permit holder's catch then the permit holder is responsible to make use of the salmon for subsistence or personal use.

The nightly closure of the airport for needed improvements will likely end mid-week and there is the possibility of increasing fishing time later the coming week.

Good luck and good fishing and don't forget to vote before you boat!