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

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**2014 Kotzebue Sound Salmon News Release # 23**
**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 Wednesday, August 20.

Last night's catch was over 6,500 chum salmon by 46 permit holders. The total harvest this season is over 579,000 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.

The airport is scheduled for one more closure this week starting at 9 p.m. Thursday. Fishing time may be able to be expanded in the next couple of days once needed airport work is completed. After this week the next scheduled airport closures will be August 30 and 31. However, there is always the possibility of more unexpected closures due to needed runway improvement work and that would limit a buyer's ability to ship fish out.

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 may be three buyers tonight, but there will likely be only two buyers on Thursday night. The department with checks with the buyers each morning and then announces the fishing time that day, but there is always the possibility a buyer is not able to buy fish once an announcement is made for fishing time. 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. So it's very important for permit holders to stay in close contact with their buyer.

Good Luck and Good Fishing!