

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



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**2014 Kotzebue Sound Salmon News Release # 24
KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING OPENING**

The next commercial salmon fishing period in the Kotzebue District will be for 5 hours from 5 p.m. until 10 p.m. on Thursday, August 21.

Last night's catch was over 8,000 chum salmon by 49 permit holders. The total harvest this season is over 588,000 chum salmon and ranks third greatest all-time. The next two openings should push the season's catch to over 600,000 chum salmon for the first time since 1981.

Additional airport closures have been announced for Thursday, Saturday and Sunday nights. After Sunday night the next tentative airport closure will be from 8 p.m. August 30 through 6 a.m. September 1. However, there is always the possibility of more unexpected closures due to needed runway improvement work and that would effect fishing time because it limits the buyers' 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 not be three buyers for every opening. The department checks with the buyers each morning and then announces the fishing time that day, but there always is the possibility a buyer will not be 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!