

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



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2014 Kotzebue Sound Salmon News Release # 26

KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL HARVEST OVER 600,000 CHUM SALMON

The next commercial salmon fishing period in the Kotzebue District will be for 8 hours from 2 p.m. until 10 p.m. on Sunday, August 24.

This year's harvest has topped 600,000 chum salmon for only the third time in the 53-year history of the Kotzebue commercial salmon fishery. Friday night's catch was 7,600 chum salmon by 44 fishermen bringing the total harvest this season to 606,000 chum salmon and for the first time since 1988 inseason payments to fishermen have exceeded one million dollars.

Payments to fishermen have been nearly 2.5 million dollars and with a week left in the commercial salmon fishing season this year's catch is projected to finish second greatest in both harvest and ex-vessel value to the 1981 season that had a harvest of 677,000 chum salmon and an ex-vessel value of 3.2 million dollars.

The fishery is scheduled to close the end of August and salmon fishermen are reminded to check with their buyer to make sure that they have sufficient capacity to purchase their catch each day. There are three buyers expected for Sunday's fishing period.

The buyers have purchased over 5 million pounds of chum salmon this season. Congratulations to the fishermen and buyers on a great fishing season.