

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



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2014 Kotzebue Sound Salmon News Release # 29

KOTZEBUE SALMON FISHING SEASON RANKS SECOND GREATEST

The next commercial salmon fishing period in the Kotzebue District will be an 8-hour fishing period from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Thursday, August 28.

Yesterday's catch was 1,639 chum salmon by 18 permit holders. Smaller catches in recent fishing periods indicate the salmon run is slowing, and with the upcoming Saturday night to Monday morning closure to the Kotzebue airport, buyers have begun shut down procedures for the season. The remaining buyers have notified the department they no longer intend to purchase salmon after Thursday's fishing period.

Through Wednesday the total harvest was over 632,000 chum salmon by 95 permit holders and the payment by the buyers was 2.93 million dollars. The 2014 harvest ranks second behind the record 1981 harvest of 677,000 chum salmon by 187 permit holders and the 3.25 million dollars paid.

The 95 permit holders fishing this season was the highest in over 20 years and the first time payments to permit holders exceeded one million dollars since 1988.

Congratulations to Kotzebue Sound fishermen, buyers and workers on a great season!