

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



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P.O. Box 1148
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Date Issued: 7/14/2015
Time: 11:00 a.m.

**2014 Kotzebue Sound Salmon News Release # 04
CLOSURE TO KOTZEBUE DISTRICT FISHING AREA NEAR AIRPORT**

Concerns have arisen over fishing effort occurring offshore of the Kotzebue airport runway. Fishing often attracts birds and can create a hazardous situation for airplanes. Therefore, the department is closing fishing in the area offshore of the main runway to three nautical miles out in the ocean from the Weather Service Dome south of the runway and the NANA building north of the runway effective midnight Tuesday evening.

The southern and northern boundaries of rectangular area that is closed to fishing will be lines parallel to the runway from the Weather Service Dome and the NANA building from the beach out to three nautical miles in the ocean.

Fishing and other marine vessels may still transit through the closed fishing area.

Last night's catch in the Kotzebue commercial salmon fishery was 11,379 chum salmon by 35 permit holders. The total catch after two fishing periods is 20,000 chum salmon by 37 permit holders and is similar to last year's catch for the first two fishing periods.