

**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: 7/25/2015
Time: 6:00 p.m.

2015 Kotzebue News Release # 10

KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHERY UPDATE

Through the first two weeks of fishing the commercial harvest in the Kotzebue fishery is nearly 106,000 chum salmon. This compares with 153,000 chum salmon harvested last year during the first two weeks of fishing.

Historically the last week of July and the first week of August produce the highest catches of the season. Last year during this two week period the harvest was 279,000 chum salmon.

The next opening in the Kotzebue District is likely Monday. At this time there is still only one buyer so fishermen are reminded to check with the buyer before any fishing opening to make sure they have a market for their catch.

The department test fish project at Kiana has been operational for one week and catches are well above average and tracking ahead of last year's record catch. Last year the test project had record daily catches at the end of July and through the first week of August.

If you have any questions concerning the fishery you can call the Kotzebue office at 442-3420, or the Commercial Fisheries office in Nome at 1-800-560-2271.