

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



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director*



Contact:
Jim Menard, Area Manager
Hilary Upicksoun, Salmon Catch Monitor
Phone: (907) 443-5167 or 1-800-560-2271
Fax: (907) 443-5893

Nome Area Office
P.O. Box 1148
Nome, Alaska 99762
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KOTZEBUE SALMON FISHING SCHEDULE FOR SECOND WEEK OF AUGUST

At the request of the buyer, commercial salmon fishing will be open for 8 hours daily from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. beginning Sunday, August 7 through Friday, August 12 in the Kotzebue District.

Although the schedule is for 8-hour daily fishing periods the buyer may need to reduce fishing time or suspend buying for a day if there is a large catch. The buyer requests that permit holders to keep in contact daily because a fishing period may be shortened if there are capacity concerns regarding cargo space on airplanes.

After four weeks of commercial fishing this year's catch of 203,000 chum salmon is ahead of last year's catch of 191,000 chum salmon. However, beginning the third week of fishing last year permit holders were limited to 1,500 pounds daily for the rest of the season. So far this year the buyer has not had catch limits.

The commercial fishing effort for the first four weeks of fishing is down by one-third compared to last year with an average of 36 permit holders fishing daily this year compared to 54 permit holders fishing daily last year.

The Kobuk River test net crew at Kiana continues to report good catches of chum salmon. The chum salmon catch index ranks tenth highest in 24 years of fishing. The catch index projection indicates the chum salmon run will be adequate to provide for subsistence needs and escapement.

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.