

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



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KOTZEBUE SALMON FISHING SCHEDULE FOR THIRD 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 14 through Friday, August 19 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 keep in contact daily because the buyer may have catch limits if there are capacity concerns regarding cargo space on airplanes.

After five weeks of commercial fishing this year's catch of 299,000 chum salmon is well ahead of last year and the 2015 season catch last year of just over 305,000 chum salmon should be surpassed during Sunday's fishing period. Although this year's catch is nowhere near the huge catch of 2014 it should easily finish as the second highest chum salmon catch since the 1980s.

The commercial fishing effort for the first five weeks of fishing is down almost one-third compared to last year with an average of 39 permit holders fishing daily this year compared to 56 permit holders fishing daily last year.

The Kobuk River crew at Kiana report catches of chum salmon picking up midweek at the test net. The catch index projection indicates the chum salmon run will meet 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.