

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



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner  
Scott Kelley, Director*



---

Contact:  
Jim Menard, Area Manager  
Justin Leon, Assistant Area Manager  
Phone: (907) 443-5167 or 1-800-560-2271  
Fax: (907) 443-6549

Nome Area Office  
P.O. Box 1148  
Nome, Alaska 99762  
Date Issued: 7/31/2017  
Time: 10:30 a.m.

**2017 Kotzebue News Release # 10**

**KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING OPENINGS**

The 2017 commercial harvest for 18 fishing periods this season has been 153,000 chum salmon. Last year's commercial fishing harvest was 126,000 chum salmon at this same point. The number of permit holders fishing has been 15% higher this year.

The department test fish crew in Kiana has reported increasing chum salmon catches and the July catch ranks 9<sup>th</sup> highest in the 25-year project history. The midpoint of the chum run at Kiana is usually the end of the first week of August.

A floating processor with tenders has arrived in Kotzebue and with processing of catch in Kotzebue for the first time since the 1990s airplane cargo capacity becomes less of a factor in requiring shorter commercial fishing time or having buyers put the fishing fleet on catch limits.

The peak of the chum salmon run past Kotzebue should be the first and second weeks of August as the Noatak River run combines with the upper Kobuk River run.

Commercial fishing will be open from 10 a.m. to 12 midnight on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Both buyers may set their own hours during the 14-hour fishing periods so permit holders will need to check with their buyer to make sure they are buying for the entire fishing period.

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.