

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



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**2018 Kotzebue News Release # 1
KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING TO OPEN**

Three buyers have registered to buy salmon in the Kotzebue Sound District and commercial salmon fishing will be open for 12 hours daily from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 10 through Friday, July 13 in the Kotzebue District.

The 2018 commercial harvest forecast is 400,000 to 600,000 chum salmon depending on sufficient airplane cargo capacity to haul fish out of Kotzebue. However, there is the possibility of exceeding the upper end of the forecast this year and having a record-breaking harvest based on the expected well above average return of 4-year-old chum salmon from the 2014 parent year and that a floating processor is expected to arrive after a few weeks to help alleviate some of the cargo capacity issues.

Because of past concerns over fishing effort near the Kotzebue airport runway the department has closed that area offshore of the main runway to one nautical mile out in the ocean to both commercial and subsistence fishing. The reason for the closure is that fishing often attracts birds which can create a hazardous situation for airplanes.

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 one nautical mile in the ocean. Fishing and other marine vessels may still transit through the closed fishing area.

Permit holders are reminded to keep in close contact with the buyer if there are any changes to their buying hours.

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.

Good Luck and Good Fishing!