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

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KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON OPENINGS

Through Friday there have been 438,000 chum salmon caught by 92 permit holders. This season's harvest is the seventh highest in history and is 20% higher than last year for mid-August.

Beginning Sunday, August 12, the Kotzebue Sound District will be open to commercial salmon fishing for 14 hours daily from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. through Friday, August 17. Fishermen are reminded to keep in close contact with the buyers in case they need to reduce the hours they can buy because of capacity concerns.

The department forecast was for a harvest of 400,000 to 600,000 chum salmon in the Kotzebue fishery and this year's catch rate is tracking towards the higher end of the forecast.

The Kobuk River test fish crew chum catches are above the long-term average and tracking nearly 20% ahead of last year's catches.

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!