

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



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner  
Jeff Regnart, Director*



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**2012 Kotzebue News Release # 1  
KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING OPENING**

Great Pacific Seafoods has notified the department of their intention to begin buying salmon for the 2012 Kotzebue Sound commercial salmon fishery.

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 8 hours from 9 p.m. Tuesday, July 10 until 5 a.m. Wednesday, July 11 in the Kotzebue District.

This first opening will serve as a test opening to determine run strength. Compared to previous years the department expects run timing to be delayed because of the late spring. Run timing to the south in Norton Sound appears to be a week behind normal.

The department expects a good run of chum salmon in 2012 and the commercial harvest forecast is 250,000 to 280,000 chum salmon. However, with the expected later run timing the chum salmon run may be compacted and may affect the buyer's ability to handle the salmon catch volume during the peak weeks.

Permit holders must have a valid 2012 commercial salmon fishing permit for Kotzebue Salmon, valid government-issued picture identification and your boat must be registered with DMV. All other crewmembers must have a 2012 commercial crewmember license, or a 2012 State of Alaska commercial fishing permit for any fishery can substitute for the commercial crewmember license.

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 or the buyer at 442-4192.

Thanks to Great Pacific Seafoods for purchasing salmon this year!