

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2018 Kotzebue Salmon News Release # 1

KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING TO OPEN

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 10 hours daily from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 10 through Friday, July 12 in the Kotzebue District.

Two buyers have registered to buy salmon in the Kotzebue Sound District and a third buyer is expected to register soon.

The 2019 commercial harvest forecast is 450,000 to 650,000 chum salmon depending on enough airplane cargo capacity to haul fish out of Kotzebue. A processing vessel with tenders is scheduled to arrive in late July and will help to alleviate capacity issues.

Because of past concerns with fishing 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!