

**Division of Commercial Fisheries**  
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## **Advisory Announcement**

***For Immediate Release: July 25, 2020***

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**Kotzebue Area Manager & Asst. Area Manager  
(907) 442-3420 (800) 560-2271**

### **Kotzebue Commercial Fishery Announcement #4**

#### **KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING TO REOPEN**

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 10 hours daily from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. from Sunday, July 26 through Friday, July 31 in the Kotzebue District.

Through the first two weeks of fishing the commercial catch was 28,270 chums. This past week the daily average number of permit holders fishing was 24 compared to 41 permit holders fishing the same time last year. The catch this past week was 20,145 chums compared to 35,055 chums during the same week last year. However, with the reduced fishing effort and fishing 2 hours less daily this year the catch per unit of effort (CPUE) has been well above last year's CPUE for the past week. The CPUE measures the average catch per permit holder per hour.

This year's chum salmon run has been weak and has been like runs throughout western Alaska. Therefore, the department will stay with the reduced fishing hours when compared to recent years.

The Kobuk River test fish crew from Kiana began fishing Friday. After next week's fishing periods the department will compare the Kotzebue commercial catch and the CPUE from the test fish project with previous years data to determine if fishing time can be continued or expanded in the Kotzebue commercial fishery.

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.

#### **COVID-19**

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 17, and 18, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>