

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Sam Rabung, Director

Headquarters Office
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: August 4, 2020

CONTACT: Jim Menard or Kevin Clark

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

Kotzebue Commercial Fishery Announcement #6

KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING TO OPEN ON WEDNESDAY

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 8 hours on Wednesday, August 5, from 12 noon until 8 p.m. in the Kotzebue District.

The commercial catch in Monday's opening was nearly 9,000 chum salmon with 42 permit holders fishing.

The Kobuk River test fish chum salmon catches at Kiana have been poor with sheefish catches outnumbering chum catches nearly four to one. However, yesterday was the first day there were more chums in the catch than sheefish. For July, the test net chum salmon catch index was the lowest in the 28-year project history.

Therefore, the department is reducing commercial fishing time this week to allow more chum salmon to move through the fishing district and into the rivers. Commercial fishing openings this week are expected to be every other day this week.

Test net catches are expected to improve this week because of the limited commercial fishing time. Although the run has come in much weaker than expected this year the department does expect improved commercial catches through next week.

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/>