

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

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Kotzebue Commercial Fishery Announcement #12

KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING TO OPEN ON TUESDAY

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 8 hours on Tuesday, August 18, from 12 p.m. until 8 p.m. in the Kotzebue District.

The commercial catch on Sunday was 6,750 chum salmon by 39 permit holders. The catch this week is expected to decline compared to last week when the peak week of catches usually occur.

The catch so far this season is just under 125,000 chum salmon by 65 permit holders. This year the harvest is expected to be less than 200,000 chum salmon and much less than the department forecast of a harvest of 450,000 to 650,000 chum salmon.

The Kobuk River test fish chum salmon catch index at Kiana had some of the best catches of the season last week but still ranks second lowest in the 28-year project history. Test net catches are expected to improve because of the reduced commercial fishing time the last few weeks.

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/>