

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
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CONTACT: Jim Menard or Kevin Clark
Kotzebue Area Manager & Asst. Area Manager
(907) 442-3420 (800) 560-2271

Kotzebue Commercial Fishery Advisory Announcement #5

KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING TO OPEN THURSDAY

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 8 hours from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Thursday, July 29 in the Kotzebue Sound District.

Catches in the commercial fishery on Monday were 3,045 chums by 28 permits and on Tuesday were 4,019 chums by 18 permit holders. The next two weeks catches should continue to improve based on the normal historical catch rate for the Kotzebue commercial fishery.

The chum salmon catch per unit of effort (CPUE) in the commercial fishery has been trailing last year. Likewise chum catches at the Kobuk River test net project are trailing last year and last year's catch was just over the index goal for the season. The sheefish catches at the test net project have been tracking ahead of last year.

The department does not plan any more commercial fishing periods until next week to allow more chum salmon to pass through the commercial fishing district for necessary subsistence needs and escapement.

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 Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, commercial fishing is considered essential 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 Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>