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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: August 1, 2021

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Kotzebue Commercial Fishery Advisory Announcement #6

KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING TO OPEN TUESDAY

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 8 hours daily from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, August 3–5, in the Kotzebue Sound District.

Catches should improve in the upcoming two weeks based on the average historical catch rate for the Kotzebue commercial fishery. Last year the best catches of the season were the second week of August.

Previously chum catches at the Kobuk River test net project had been trailing last year and last year's catch was just over the index goal for the season. Test net catches started to improve midweek, but since Friday the test fish crew has been unable to put out the gillnet because of debris from flooding.

If the test net project is unable to operate the department will compare the catch per unit of effort (CPUE) in the daily commercial catches this coming week with last year's CPUE to see if the catch is like last year or better or worse.

Two of the three upcoming fishing periods are the same date as last year and last year's fishing periods during the first three weeks of August were 8 hours long, 3 days per week. The department will coordinate with the buyers for future fishing dates depending on catches this week.

If you have any questions concerning the fishery, please 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/>