

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 13, 2021

CONTACT: Jim Menard or Kevin Clark

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

Kotzebue Commercial Fishery Advisory Announcement #8

KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING OPENS FOR 3 DAYS BEGINNING MONDAY

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 8 hours daily from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, August 16–18, in the Kotzebue Sound District.

This year's chum salmon catch rates continue to be low and is similar to the 2020 run. Additional time may be allowed if catch data indicates that chum salmon abundance is improving to levels that would allow for additional fishing time. Extra time is not anticipated due to poor chum runs experienced in most areas in Western Alaska in 2021. The department will continue to monitor the fishery and assess the potential for additional fishing time.

The test fishing on the Kobuk River at Kiana has been hampered by high water since late July and the data that has been collected has been inconclusive. Due to the data being inconclusive, the department is taking a conservative approach to managing the Kotzebue fishery.

The department will determine future fishing time based on commercial chum salmon catches next 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/>