

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**2016 Kotzebue News Release # 10
NEXT WEEK'S KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING SCHEDULE**

At the request of the buyer commercial salmon fishing will open for 8 hours daily from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. beginning Sunday, July 24 through Friday, July 29 in the Kotzebue District.

Historically the biggest catches are in the coming two weeks. Although the schedule is for 8 hour daily fishing periods the buyer may need to reduce fishing time or suspend buying for a day if there is a large catch. Fishermen may remember the record catch of over 64,000 chum salmon during an 8-hour fishing period on July 28, 2014. It took 21 plane loads to ship the catch out of Kotzebue and there was no fishing the following day.

Friday's catch was 15,118 chum salmon by 48 permit holders. The catch and number of permit holders fishing was the highest of the season. The total catch is just over 61,000 chum salmon. So far this season's catch is one-third below last year and the number of permit holders fishing has also averaged one-third below last year.

The Fish & Game test fish crew has started fishing at Kiana and catches have fallen below average compared to the last several years. However, the three previous years had the three highest years of catches in the 24-year project history. The Kobuk River crew reports chum salmon in the test net are bright and very big in size. The catch index projection from the first few days of test fishing indicates the chum salmon run will be adequate to provide for 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.