

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



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KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING OPENINGS

The 2017 commercial harvest for 16 fishing periods this season has been 137,000 chum salmon. Last year's commercial fishing harvest was 115,000 chum salmon at this same point. The number of permit holders fishing has been 15% higher this year.

The Kobuk River test fish crew in Kiana has continued to report catches slightly below the recent short-term average of the 2010s that had some of highest catches in the 25-year project history. There were good catches on Thursday and at this point in the run the test net catches rank 10th highest all-time. The midpoint of the chum run at Kiana is usually the end of the first week of August.

In the previous 24 years of test fishing at Kiana the north bank chum salmon catches only exceeded the south bank chum salmon catches in 2007 and 2016. In 2007 the north bank had 55% of the chum catch and in 2016 the north bank had 57% of the chum catch. So far this year the north bank drifts at the test fishing site have caught 75% of the chum salmon. So the usual south bank hot spot on the Kobuk River downstream of Kiana has gone cold.

The next commercial salmon openings will be 8-hour fishing periods from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Sunday and 12 noon until 8 p.m. on Monday.

Permit holders are reminded to keep in close contact with the buyer if there are any changes to their buying hours.

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.