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

Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director

Contact:
Jim Menard, Area Manager
Justin Leon, Assistant Area Manager
Phone: (907) 443-5167 or 1-800-560-2271
Fax: (907) 443-5893

Nome Area Office
P.O. Box 1148
Nome, Alaska 99762

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UPCOMING KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON OPENINGS

Catches during the daily openings this past week were like last year's catches for the same time. For the first two weeks of fishing this season there were nearly 90,000 chums caught by 60 permit holders.

The expected large return of 4-year-old chum salmon should result in above average catches next week. Permit holders are reminded to stay in close contact with the buyers in case they need to reduce the hours they can buy because of capacity concerns.

Beginning Sunday, July 22, the Kotzebue Sound District will be open to commercial salmon fishing for 12 hours daily from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. through Tuesday, July 24. The department will set periods for the remainder of the week on Tuesday after consultation with the buyers.

The Kobuk River test fish crew began drifts downstream of Kiana on Wednesday and have caught chums, sheefish and a pink with the catch rate like last year.

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.

Good Luck and Good Fishing!