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Advisory Announcement

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KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL CHUM SALMON FISHERY FINISHES WITH A TOP 10 HARVEST

This year's commercial chum salmon harvest ranked 8th highest in the 61-year history of the Kotzebue Sound commercial salmon fishery. Preliminary data are 475,752 chum salmon harvested by 65 permit holders.

Although the number of permit holders fishing this season was the second lowest in over a decade the number fishing was well above the 52 permit holders that fished last year, and this year's harvest was well above last year's harvest of 96,492 chum salmon. This season's chum salmon catches shot up the last few days of July and catches remained well above average until the last few days of August.

The chum salmon average weight of 7.6 pounds was above last year's record low weight of 7.4 pounds but was only the 6th time in history that the chum salmon average weight was below 8 pounds.

The ex-vessel value of 2 million dollars was the fourth time in the past decade that the value was 2 million dollars or greater when adjusting for inflation and the first time since 2019 that the ex-vessel value exceeded 1 million dollars.

Congratulations to the fishermen, the buyers and processing crews on the fourth Top 10 harvest in the past decade.