

## *Chum Salmon—*

# Good Fishing at OTZ

**(From KOTZEBUE NEWS)**

At the close of the fishing period Saturday a total of 68,200 chum salmon were harvested commercially in the Kotzebue district.

Chums bring fishermen 28 cents per pound from Arctic Fish and Kotzebue Sound Area Fisheries. Both buyers are selling to Whitney-Fidalgo who ship the fish out by air.

This is opposed to last year's sale of fish by the co-op to the Japanese and Arctic Fish to Whitney. Last year there was considerably more competition with prices ranging near 40 cents per pound for the fishermen.

The fishing season began a few weeks later than the usual first week in July. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game attributes the delay to lower water temperatures in the area slowing the travel of chums to the streams for spawning.

The number of escapements for spawning has been reported good following a stream count Saturday.

The average recent weight of the chums has been 8.4 pounds, a .2 lb. increase over last year. 65% of fish harvested this season are four year-olds, the majority of last years fish being three-year-olds.