



## Advisory Announcement

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### 2024 POINT GARDNER AND KINGSMILL TEST FISHERIES UPDATE # 1

The Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries are ongoing projects that assess pink and chum salmon abundance returning to Section 9-B and District 10. Test fishing at Point Gardner occurs one day per week for 5 weeks starting in statistical week 26 (June 23 – June 29). The Point Gardner test fishery has proven to be a very good indicator for pink salmon returning to Frederick Sound and lower Stephens Passage, particularly to District 10. The Kingsmill test fishery occurs one day per week for 4 weeks starting in statistical week 27 (June 30 – July 6). The Kingsmill test fishery is used as an indicator for runs returning to Frederick Sound and eastern lower Chatham Strait (Section 9-B and District 10). Results from the Kingsmill test fishery are generally less conclusive since the test fishery will catch fish heading north to Frederick Sound and south to Rowan and Tebenkof Bays.

This year the *F/V Obsession* is conducting both test fisheries.

**Point Gardner:** The first test fishery was conducted on Tuesday, June 25. All 7 sets were completed but one set did not provide representative data and was omitted from the results. Chum salmon harvests were well above the recent 10-year average (2014 – 2023) and pink salmon harvests were well below. All 9 pink salmon harvested were sampled and the male sex ratios were 100%. Male sex ratios for chum salmon were 55%.

**Kingsmill:** No test fishery was scheduled to be conducted this week.

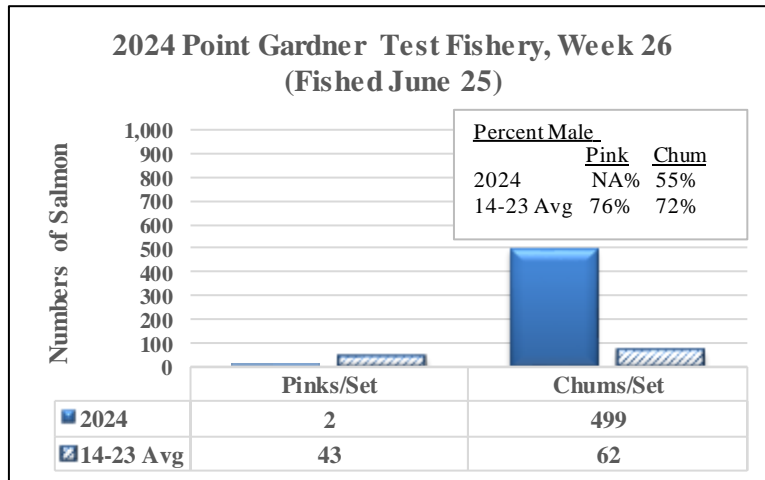
**Run Strength:** It is difficult to gauge the run strength after one test fishing period, however, the chum salmon harvests from this test fishing period were well above the 10-year average and the highest chum salmon harvest on record for the Point Gardner test fishery in statistical week 26. Pink salmon harvests were well below the 10-year average. Run strength indicators will become more conclusive as more test fishery periods are conducted.

**Sex Ratio Sampling:** Sex ratio sampling is used as a tool in determining run timing. Numbers of males are higher during the beginning of the run and females are more numerous during the latter part of the run. Comparing this year's sex ratios to the historical average provides an indication of whether the run is earlier, later, or similar in run timing to previous returns. The below average sex ratio for chum salmon indicates an earlier than normal run timing; however, any conclusions from one sampling event should be taken cautiously. The small sample size for pink salmon is too small to draw any conclusions from.

#### Average Weights:

- Point Gardner: pink salmon: Data unavailable; chum salmon: Data unavailable.

**Next Test Fisheries:** Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries are scheduled for Monday, July 1, and Tuesday, July 2.



Advisory Announcement web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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