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## **Advisory Announcement**

***For Immediate Release: June 29, 2024***

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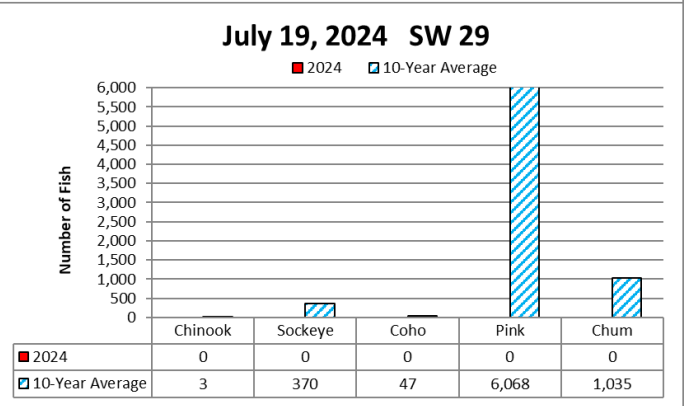
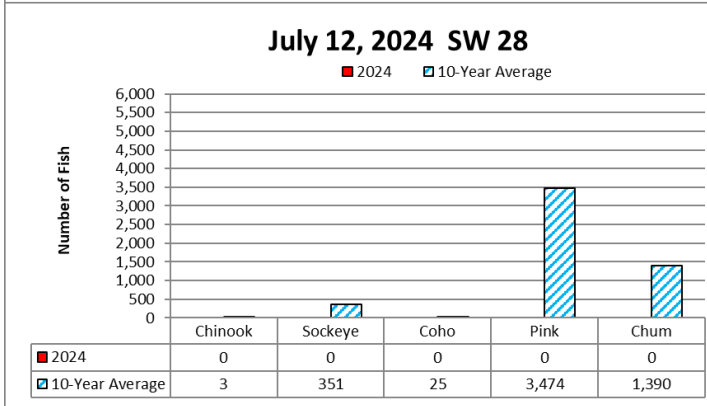
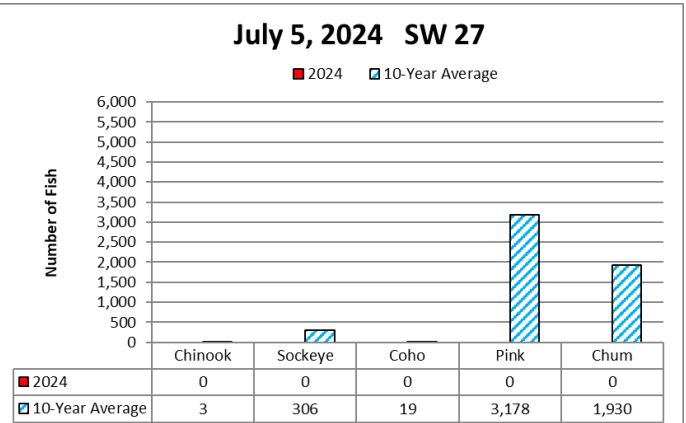
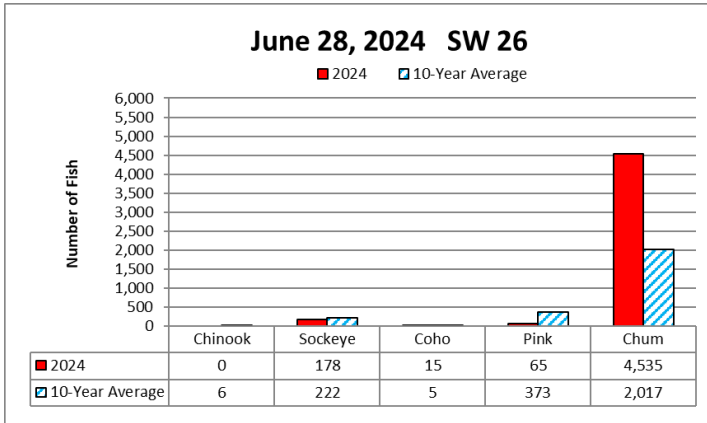
### **2024 HAWK INLET SALMON PURSE SEINE TEST FISHERY UPDATE # 1**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has been utilizing the Hawk Inlet test fishery annually since 1992. The primary goals of the test fishery are to evaluate run strength and timing of northern inside migrating pink salmon returning to Lynn Canal and Stephens Passage and to analyze the stock composition of sockeye and chum salmon.

The ADF&G solicits bids to charter a commercial salmon purse seine fishing vessel to conduct test fishing along the Hawk Inlet shoreline generally starting on the fourth Friday in June and occurring once a week for four consecutive weeks into mid-July. Each fishing day will include a minimum of 4 sets which are made at predetermined locations between Hawk Inlet and Point Retreat.

The F/V Osprey was awarded the test fish contract this season and conducted the first of the 2024 Hawk Inlet shoreline test fisheries on Friday, June 28. Comparing the daily harvests to the recent 10-year average harvests on or around this date, coho and chum salmon harvests were above average while sockeye and pink salmon harvests were below average. Sockeye salmon harvest was 80% of average, chum salmon harvest was 225% of average, and pink salmon harvest was 17% of average. The pink salmon sex ratio was 76% male, above the average of 75% male for previous year's test fisheries conducted on or around this date.

These results suggest that pink salmon run timing aligns with the recent 10-year average at this time and general abundance is weak which is not surprising in an even year. Sockeye and chum salmon otoliths will be analyzed to give insight on stock composition and proportion of wild and hatchery origin fish. This information is useful for managing potential common property purse seine fisheries along this shoreline and for other fisheries currently underway in northern Chatham Strait, Lynn Canal, and Stephens Passage.



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

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