



## Advisory Announcement

*For Immediate Release: July 6, 2024*

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### 2024 POINT GARDNER AND KINGSMILL TEST FISHERIES UPDATE # 2B

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 week the *F/V Angelette* conducted the Point Gardner test fishery and the *F/V Obsession* conducted the Kingsmill test fishery.

**Point Gardner:** The second test fishery was conducted on Monday, July 1. All 7 sets were completed. Chum salmon harvests were well above the recent 10-year average (2014 – 2023) and pink salmon harvests were well below. Male chum salmon sex ratios were 64%. Pink salmon sex ratios were not collected.

**Kingsmill:** The first test fishery was conducted on Friday, July 5. All 7 sets were completed. Chum salmon harvests were well above the recent 10-year average and pink salmon harvests were well below. Male chum salmon sex ratios were 53% and male pink salmon sex ratios were 80%.

**Run Strength:** This is the second period with well above average chum and well below average pink salmon harvests, therefore, the chum run strength appears to be good and the pink salmon run strength appears to be poor. It is still early in the pink salmon run and run strength indicators will become more conclusive as more test fishery periods are conducted.

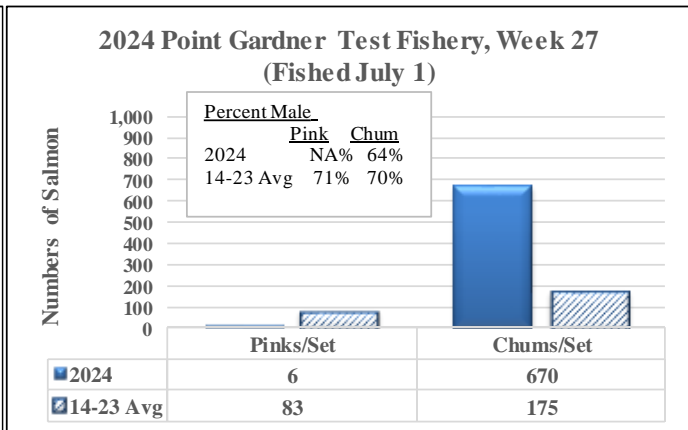
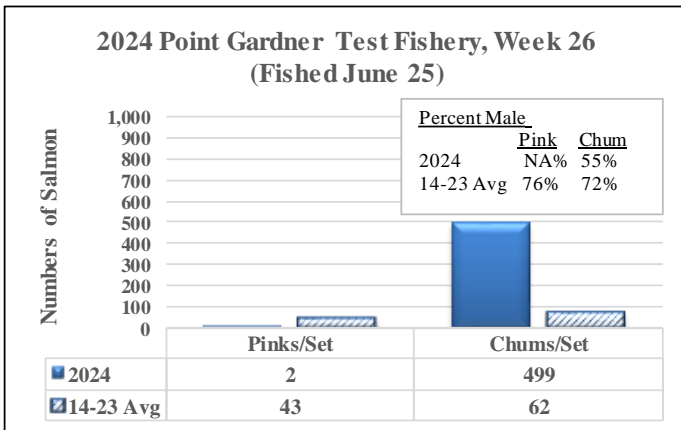
**Sex Ratio Sampling:** Sex ratio sampling is used as a tool in determining run timing. Numbers of males are higher during the beginning of the run and females are more numerous during the latter part of the run. Comparing this year's sex ratios to the historical average provides an indication of whether 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. The pink salmon sample size was too small to be conclusive but suggests an average to late run timing.

#### Average Weights:

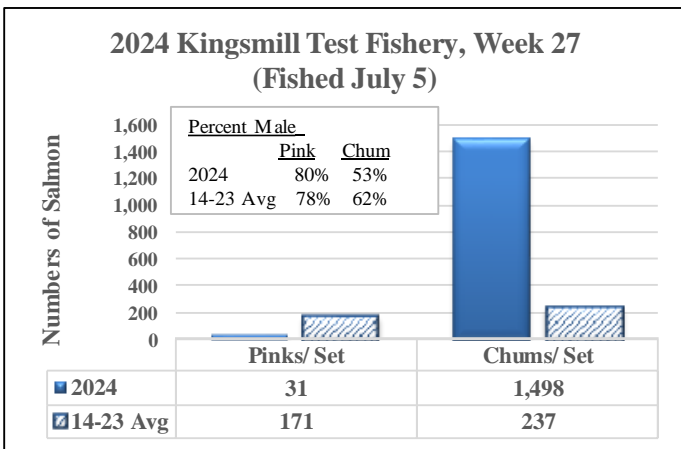
- Point Gardner: pink salmon: Data unavailable; chum salmon: Data unavailable.
- Kingsmill: pink salmon: 2.5 pounds; chum salmon: 5.4 pounds.

**Next Test Fisheries:** The Point Gardner test fishery is scheduled for Monday, July 8, and the Kingsmill test fishery is scheduled for Tuesday, July 9.

**Point Gardner:**



**Kingsmill:**



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

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