



Advisory Announcement

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2024 POINT GARDNER AND KINGSMILL TEST FISHERIES UPDATE # 5

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 fifth test fishery was conducted on Monday, July 22. All 7 sets were completed. Pink and chum salmon harvests were well above the recent 10-year average (2014 – 2023). Male pink salmon sex ratios were 74%. Male chum salmon sex ratios were 42%.

Kingsmill: The fourth test fishery was conducted on Tuesday, July 23. All 7 sets were completed. Pink salmon harvests were below the recent 10-year average and chum salmon harvests were above. Male pink salmon sex ratios were 77%. Male chum salmon sex ratios were 42%.

Run Strength: This is the fifth period with well above average chum salmon harvests, therefore, the chum run strength appears to be good. The pink salmon harvests were well below average for the first 4 test fishing periods but have become near average in the fifth test fishing period. Therefore, it appears the early pink salmon run was poor but the middle run may be average. However, there is not sufficient data on the middle run to be conclusive.

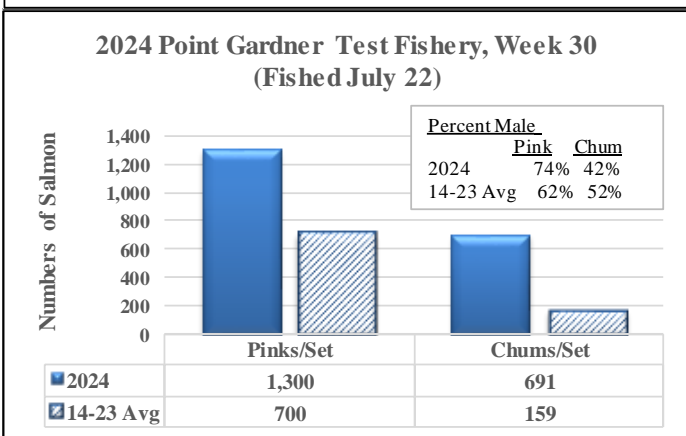
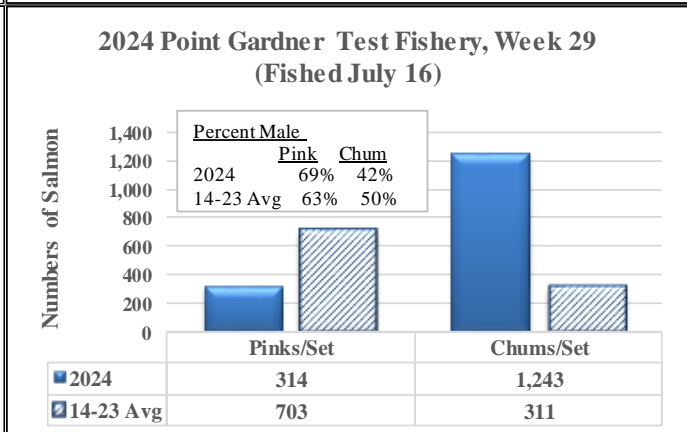
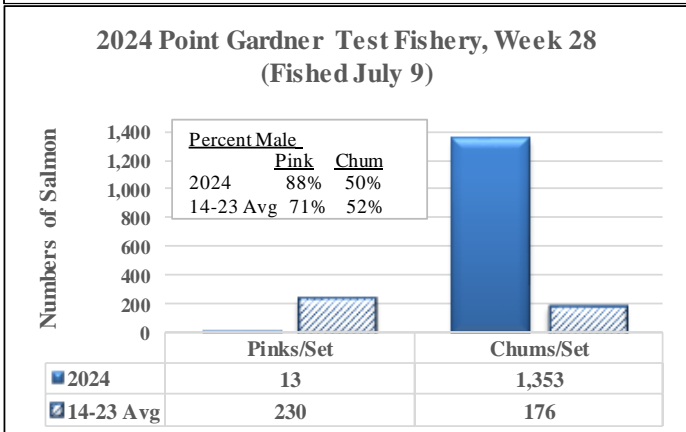
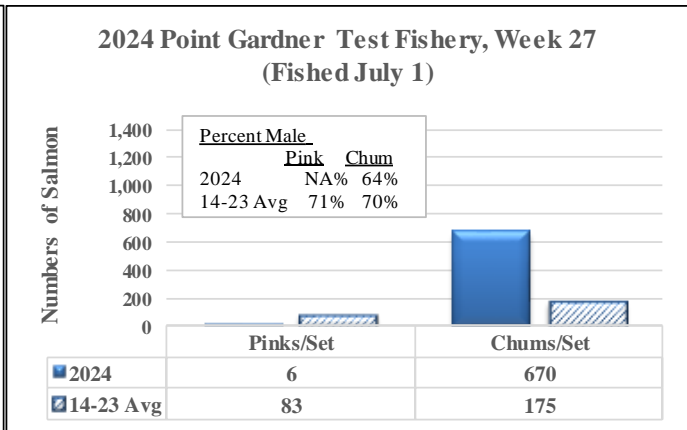
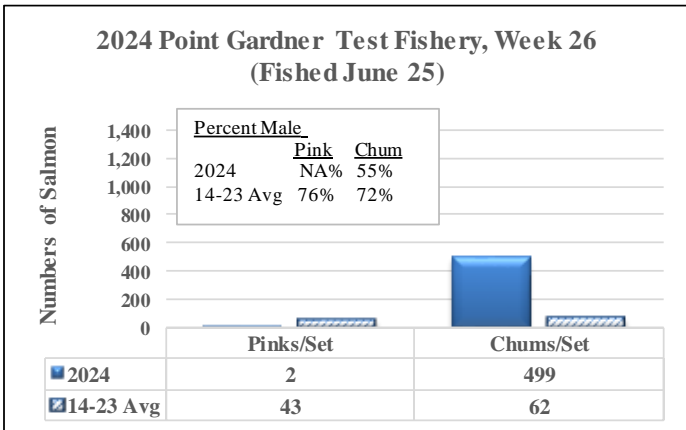
Sex Ratio Sampling: Sex ratio sampling is used as a tool in determining run timing. Numbers of males are higher during the beginning of the run and females are more numerous during the latter part of the run. Comparing this year's sex ratios to the historical average provides an indication of whether 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 sex ratio suggests an average to late run timing.

Average Weights:

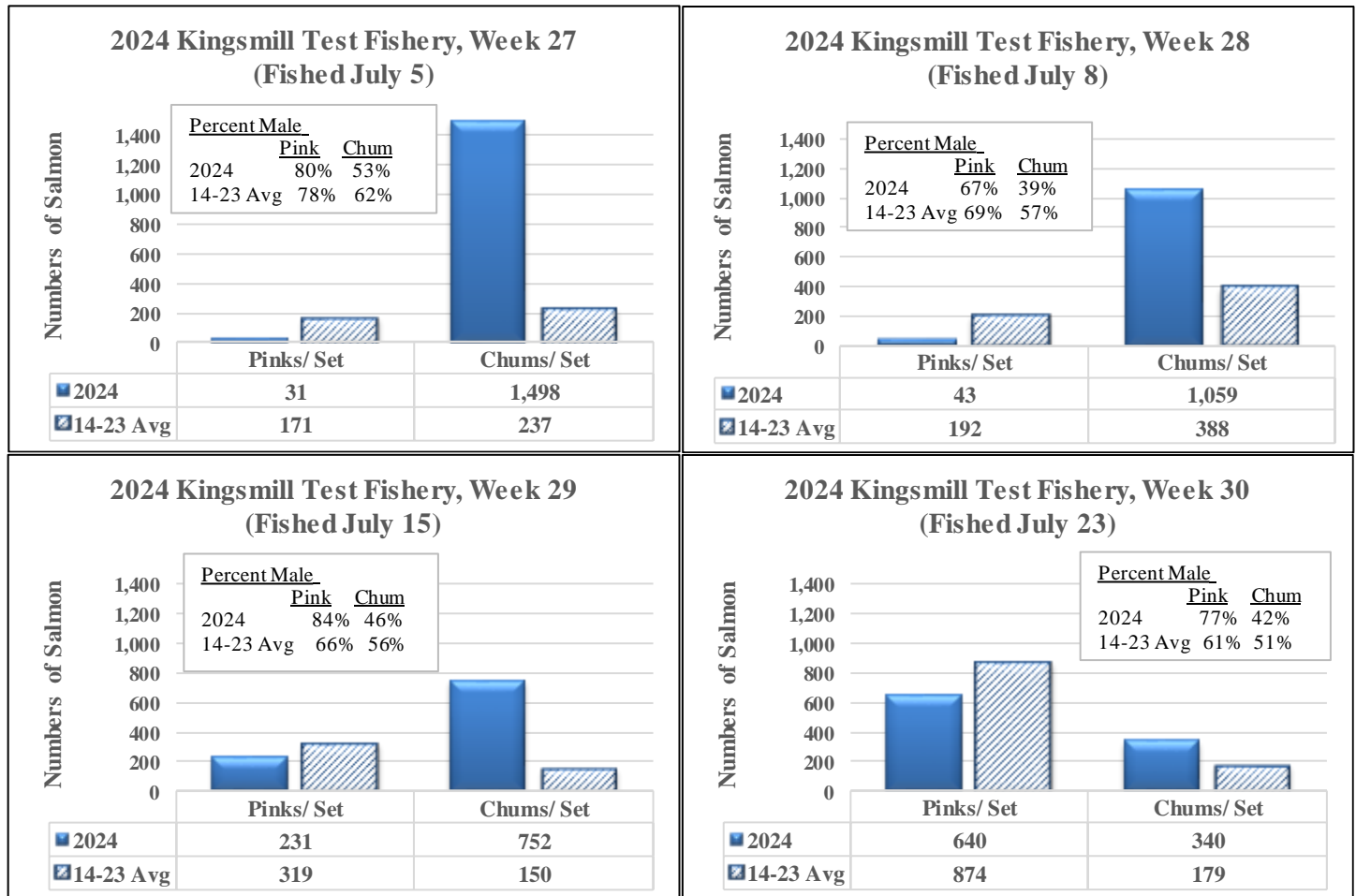
- Point Gardner and Kingsmill: pink salmon: 2.8 pounds; chum salmon: 5.5 pounds.

Next Test Fisheries: The next and final test fisheries are scheduled for Monday, July 28, and Tuesday, July 29.

Point Gardner:



Kingsmill:



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

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