



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: June 29, 2023

CONTACT: Katie Taylor
Petersburg Assistant Area Management Biologist
kathryn.taylor@alaska.gov
(907) 772-3801

2023 POINT GARDNER AND KINGSMILL TEST FISHERIES UPDATE # 1

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 25 – July 1). 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 four weeks starting in statistical week 27 (July 2 – July 8). The Kingsmill test fishery is used as an indicator for runs returning to Frederick Sound and to 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 St. Janet* is conducting both test fisheries.

Point Gardner: The first test fishery was conducted on Wednesday, June 28. All seven scheduled sets were completed. Pink and chum salmon harvests were above the recent 10-year average (2013 – 2022). Male sex ratios for pink salmon were 87%. Male sex ratios for chum salmon were 76%.

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

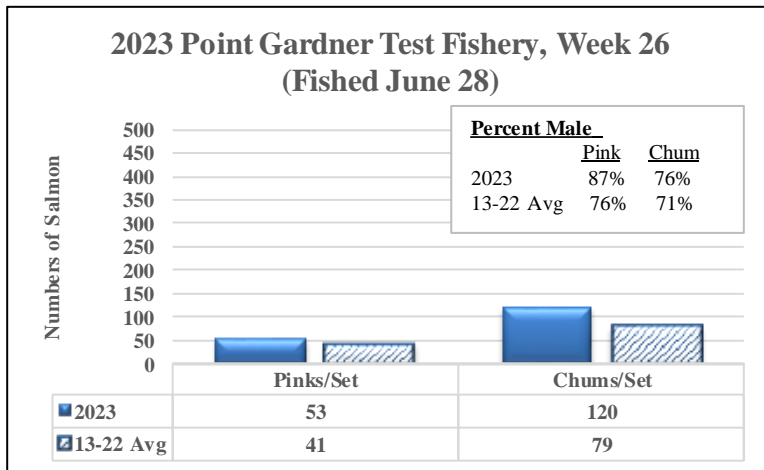
Run Strength: It is difficult to gauge the run strength after one test fishing period, however, the pink and chum salmon harvests from this test fishing period were above the 10-year average. Run strength indicators will become more conclusive as more test fishery periods are conducted.

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 above average sex ratios for both pink and chum salmon from this one sampling event indicates a later than normal run timing for both species; however, any conclusions from one sampling event should be taken cautiously.

Average Weights:

-Point Gardner: pink salmon: 3.7 pounds; chum salmon: 5.7 pounds.

Next Test Fisheries: Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries are scheduled for Monday, July 3, and Tuesday, July 4.



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