



Advisory Announcement

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

2023 POINT GARDNER AND KINGSMILL TEST FISHERIES UPDATE # 4

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 five 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 fourth test fishery was conducted on Monday, July 17. All seven scheduled sets were completed. Pink salmon harvests were well below the recent 10-year average (2013 – 2022). Chum salmon harvests were above the recent 10-year average. Male sex ratios for pink salmon were 65%. Male sex ratios for chum salmon were 42%.

Kingsmill: The third test fishery was conducted on Tuesday, July 18. All seven scheduled sets were completed. Pink and chum salmon harvests were below the recent 10-year average. Male sex ratios for pink salmon were 74%. Male sex ratios for chum salmon were 50%.

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 years. If the sex ratios are representative, pink salmon run timing may be average, and chum salmon run timing may be earlier than average.

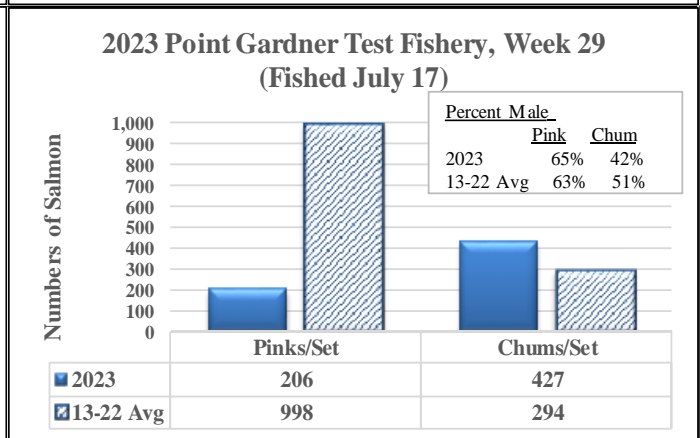
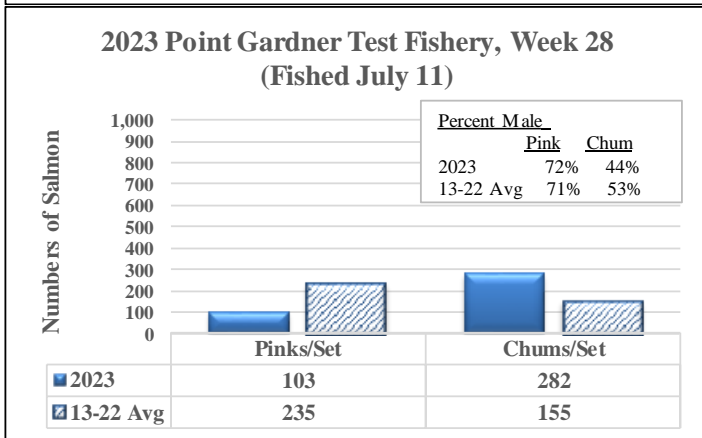
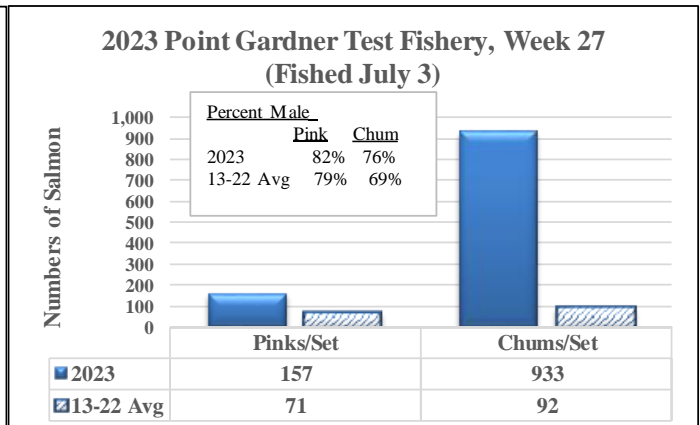
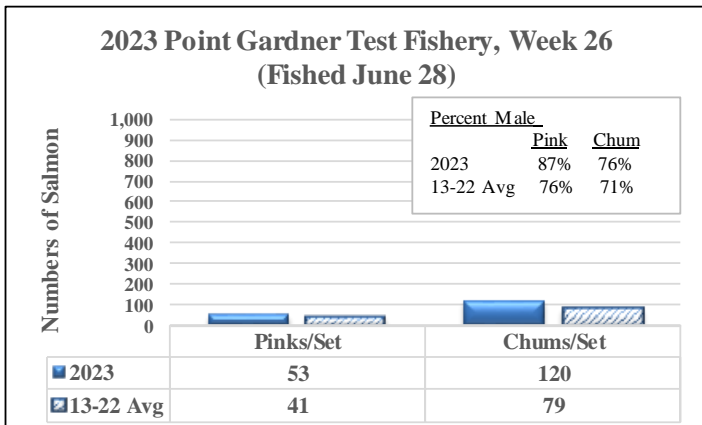
Run Strength: Based on above average harvests and sex ratios, test fishing results from statistical weeks (SW) 26 and 27 indicated that both pink and chum salmon runs entering Frederick Sound appeared to be above average. However, in SWs 28 and 29, Kingsmill and Point Gardner test fishing results indicated below average pink salmon runs entering Frederick Sound. Chum salmon test fishing results in SWs 28 and 29 were inconclusive with Point Gardner catch rates above average and Kingsmill catch rates below average.

Average Weights:

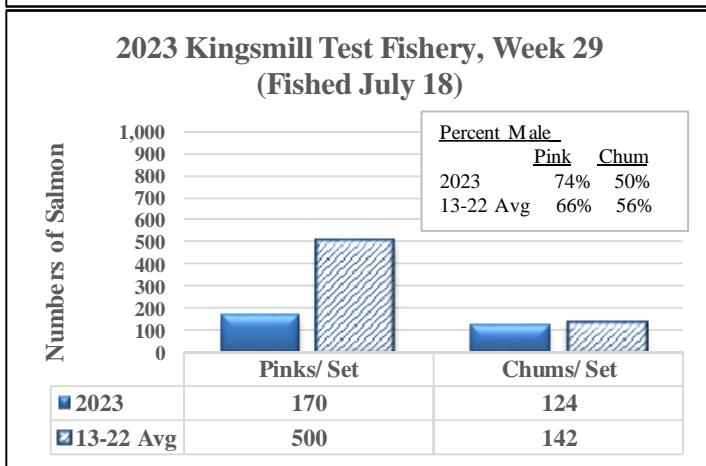
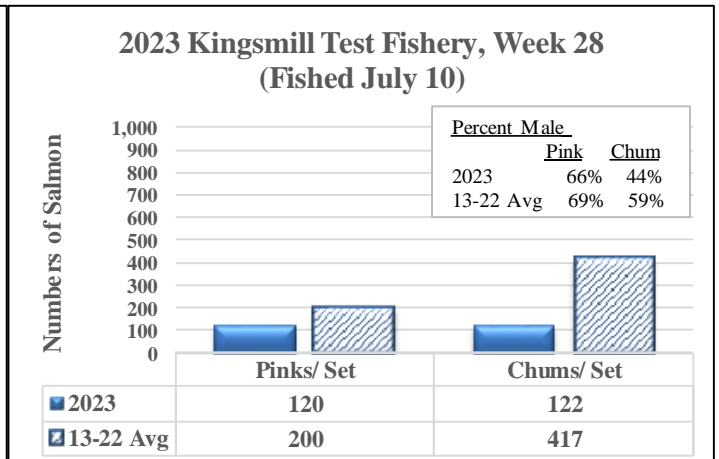
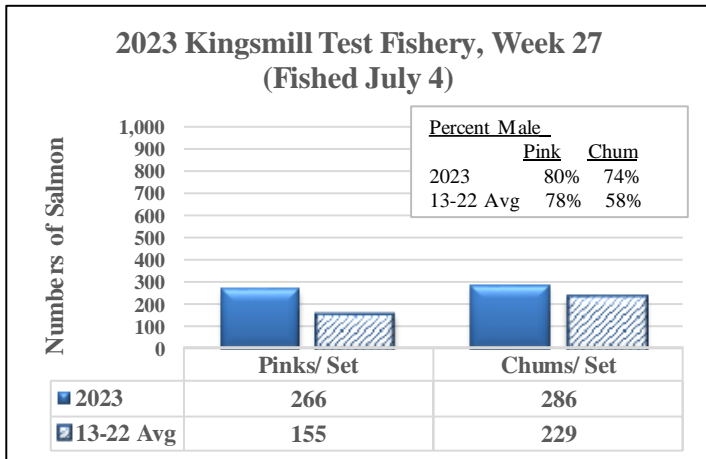
- Point Gardner: pink salmon: 3.4 pounds; chum salmon: 5.6 pounds.
- Kingsmill: pink salmon: 3.5 pounds; chum salmon: 5.0 pounds.

Next Test Fisheries: Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries are scheduled for Monday, July 24, and Tuesday, July 25.

Point Gardner:



Kingsmill:



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

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