



Advisory Announcement

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2024 POINT GARDNER AND KINGSMILL TEST FISHERIES UPDATE # 6

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 sixth and final test fishery was conducted on Monday, July 29. All 7 sets were completed. Pink and chum salmon harvests were well above the recent 10-year average (2014 – 2023) and above the long-term average (1994 – 2023). Male pink salmon sex ratios were 62%. Male chum salmon sex ratios were 40%. It should be noted, the recent average includes 4 years of data, and the long-term average includes 9 years of data.

Kingsmill: The fifth and final test fishery was conducted on Tuesday, July 30. Six of the 7 sets were completed. Pink and chum salmon harvests were well above the recent 10-year and long-term averages. Male pink salmon sex ratios were 73%. Male chum salmon sex ratios were 39%. It should be noted, the recent average includes 3 years of data, and the long-term average includes 9 years of data.

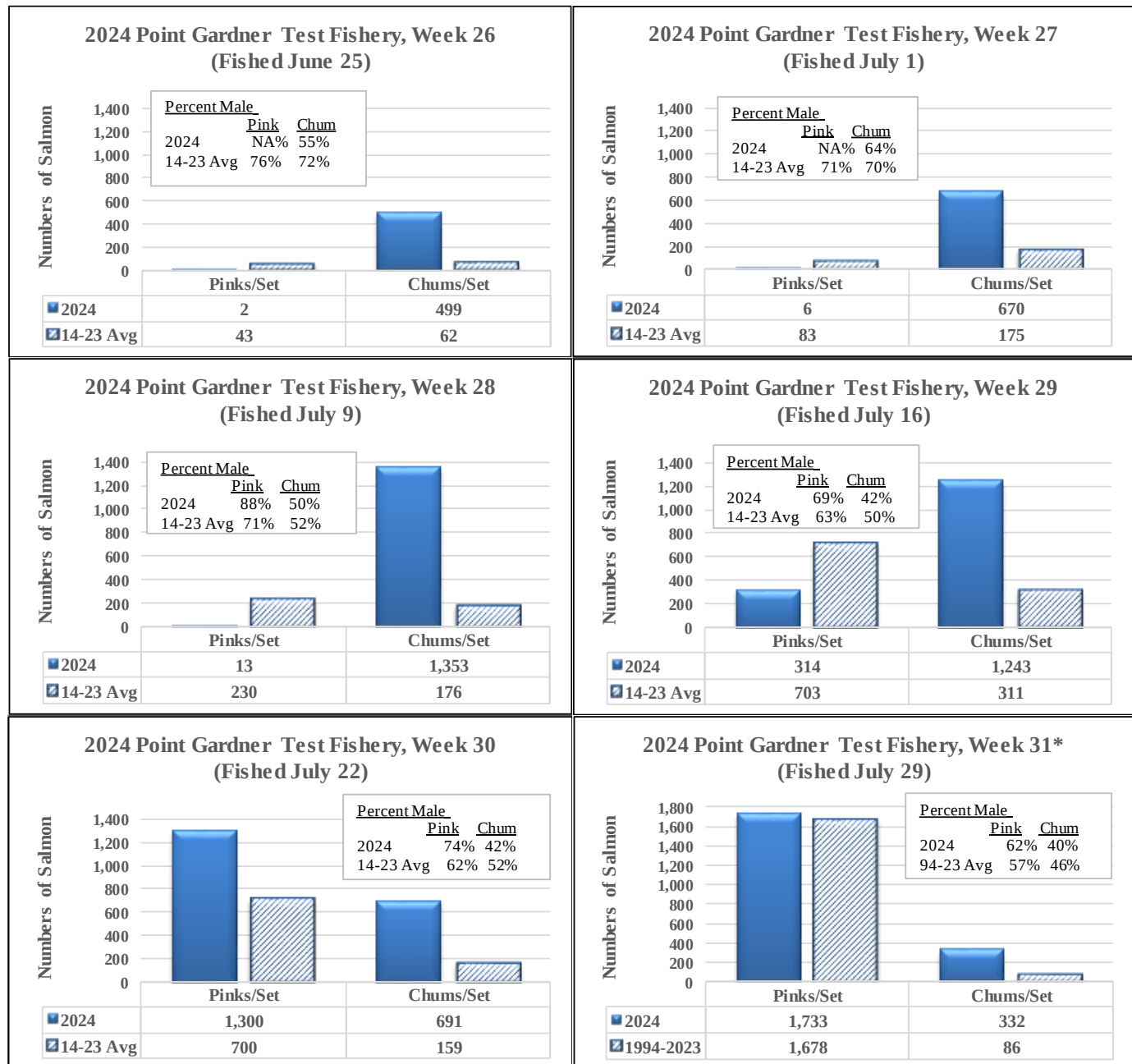
Run Strength: This is the sixth period with above average chum salmon harvests; therefore, all indications point towards a strong chum salmon run. The pink salmon harvests were well below average for the first 4 test fishing periods but have become near and above average in the fifth and sixth test fishing periods. 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 as test fisheries typically have not been conducted past July. Results should be viewed cautiously as this is only the tenth time test fishing has occurred in statistical week 31 since the Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries began in 1994.

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 above average pink salmon sex ratio suggests an average to late run timing.

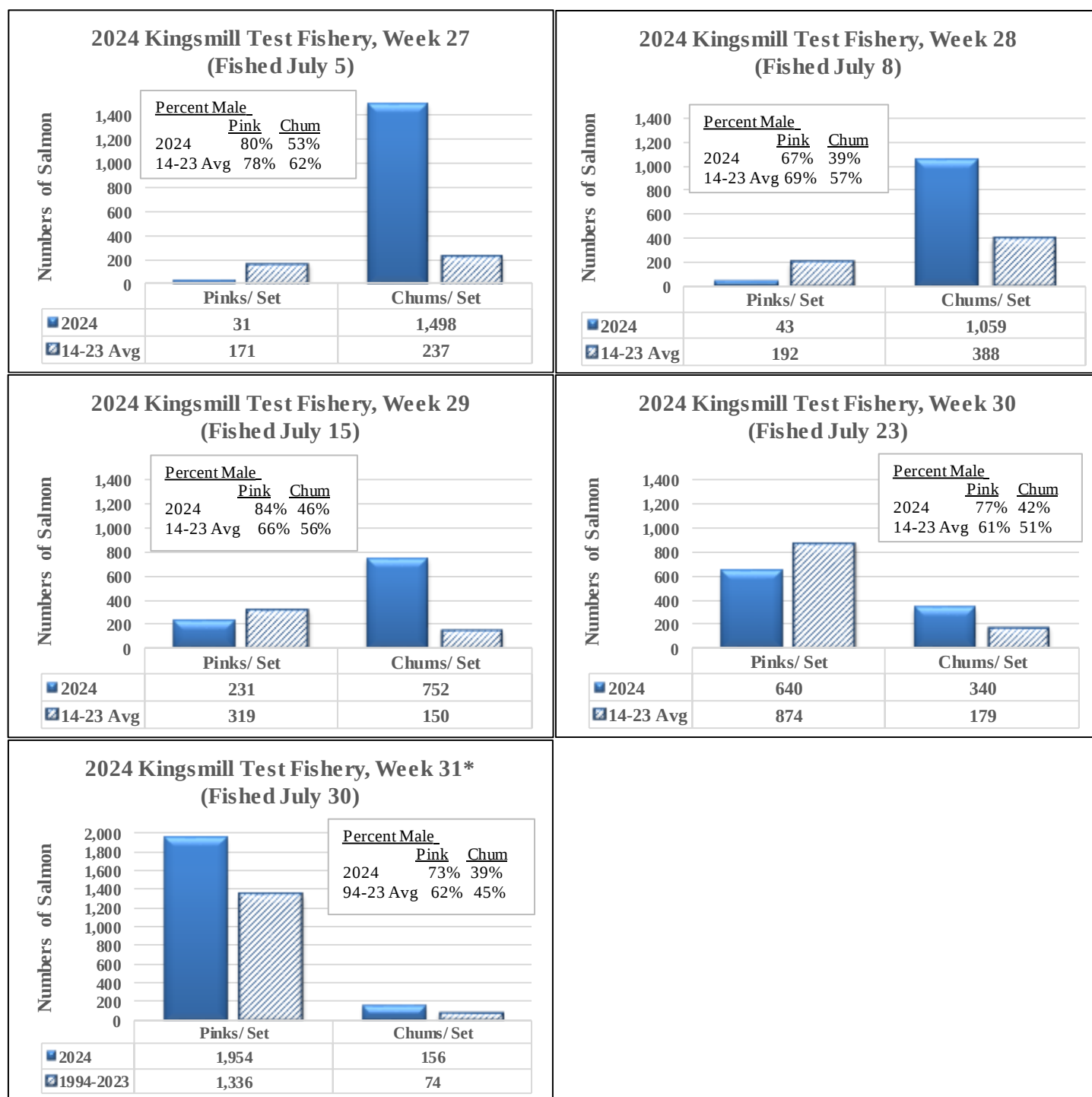
Average Weights:

- Point Gardner and Kingsmill: pink salmon: 3.1 pounds; chum salmon: 5.7 pounds.

Next Test Fisheries: The Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries have concluded for the 2024 season.

Point Gardner:

*Due to limited data, the long-term average (1994 – 2023) was used as the comparative in statistical week 31.

Kingsmill:

*Due to limited data, the long-term average (1994 – 2023) was used as the comparative in statistical week 31.

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

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