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2025 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 22 – June 28). 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 29 – July 5). 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 second test fishery was conducted on Friday, July 4. All 7 sets were completed. Chum salmon harvests were well above the recent 10-year average (2015 - 2024) and pink salmon harvests were well below. Male chum salmon sex ratios were 53%. Male pink salmon sex ratios were 64%.

Kingsmill: The first test fishery was conducted on Monday, June 30. All 7 sets were completed. Chum and pink salmon harvests were below the recent 10-year average (2015 - 2024). Male chum salmon sex ratios were 65%. Male pink salmon sex ratios were 73%.

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

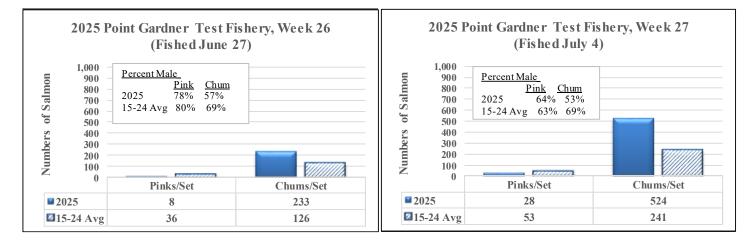
Sex Ratio Sampling: Sex ratio sampling is used as a tool in determining run timing. Numbers of males are higher during the beginning of the run and females are more numerous during the latter part of the run. Comparing this year's sex ratios to the historical average provides an indication of whether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

Average Weights:

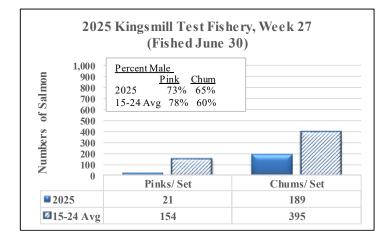
- Point Gardner: pink salmon: Data unavailable; chum salmon: 5.9 pounds.
- Kingsmill: pink salmon: 3.8 pounds; chum salmon: 6.5 pounds.

Next Test Fisheries: The next test fisheries are scheduled for Monday, July 7, and Tuesday, July 8.

Point Gardner:



Kingsmill:



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

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