



Port Moller Test Fish Catch Update

Pre Season Update, June 9, 2025

Greetings everyone and welcome to the 2025 Bristol Bay Season,

As you can tell we have a bit of a new look. This year, due to the sheer volume of subscribers to this email and also adding additional email lists for other projects, we have decided to go with an email service for the 2025 season to help us keep it all organized. So while these daily updates may have a slightly new look, they are still coming from the same great team over here at BBSRI.

We are about to begin [Port Moller Test Fishery \(PMTF\)](#) operations right on time. The **R/V St. Andrew** (SA) will embark upon its maiden season on the project, however, it is owned and operated by the Maw family who have been operating the R/V Ocean Cat and are back for their 7th season. The St. Andrew is currently making its way through False Pass and will be on transect by mid-day tomorrow. The **R/V Miss Leona** (ML) is back for its 3rd season and left Dutch Harbor early this morning and should be on transect by tomorrow mid-day. The plan is to fish stations 2 –16 tomorrow, June 10. On June 11 the vessels will begin fishing the full transect.

The genetics lab (8'x16' Connex) has been mounted on the Miss Leona (ML) and, like last year, the lab will provide all the genotyping service without bringing tissues ashore. Personnel on the ML will email genotype data to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Gene Conservation Laboratory, which will produce the stock composition estimates, as has been done for close to 20 years.

We have a great team working on PMTF again this year. **Dr. Scott Raborn** will lead the daily catch updates and analysis as he's done for 17 years. **Jeff Regnart** will oversee vessel operations and assist in all aspects of project management. **Chris Allison** and **Robert Maw** will captain the Miss Leona and St. Andrew respectively,

both of which are skilled captains who have experience performing the test fishery. And finally, we have a skilled scientific crew on the vessels this year: **Max Binder, Elijah Lindley, Mary Powers, Grace Turner, and Jack Wrigley.**

This season you can expect the same level of information that you have come to rely on. Each day we will send out the daily update with CPUE's from station 2-22. You should expect regular genetic stock composition updates once sufficient fish have been captured to perform stock composition analysis. We will also provide periodic age composition updates, average weight of sockeye in the test fishery, and interpretations of the run strength and arrival timing.

In addition to the Port Moller Test Fishery, BBSRI has an ambitious project schedule in 2025. We will be operating the [Nushagak District Test Fishery](#) for the 6th consecutive year to aid in the early season management of the Nushagak District. We will operate [Chinook salmon weirs](#) on the Kaktuli and Upper Nushagak Rivers for the 2nd consecutive season. We will be operating the [Nuyakuk River Counting Tower](#) for the third consecutive year. In addition, we will also begin full operations on a [genetics lab in Dutch Harbor](#) which will provide weekly reports on the stock of origin of chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery. Inseason data for the Port Moller Test fish project and all BBSRI's other projects listed above can be found on our new Inseason Data Page (Link Below). A lot of work goes into executing this suite of projects and I would like to thank BBSRI staff and contractors **Tami Matheny, Bryan Nass, Jeff Regnart, Scott Raborn, Abi Duffy, Jason Smith, Sam Harris, Rob Stewart, and Warner Lew** for their hard work and dedication to getting these projects in the water this season.

Of course, this work is made possible by strong support and collaboration by all those involved in the Bristol Bay Fishery. We would like to thank **ADF&G Bristol Bay Staff, ADF&G Gene Conservation Lab, BBRSDA, and our industry partners** for your continued support.

Whether you are fishing, processing, or just along for the ride, we wish you all a safe and prosperous 2025 Bristol Bay Salmon Season.

Jordan Head

Executive Director, The Bristol Bay Science and Research Institute

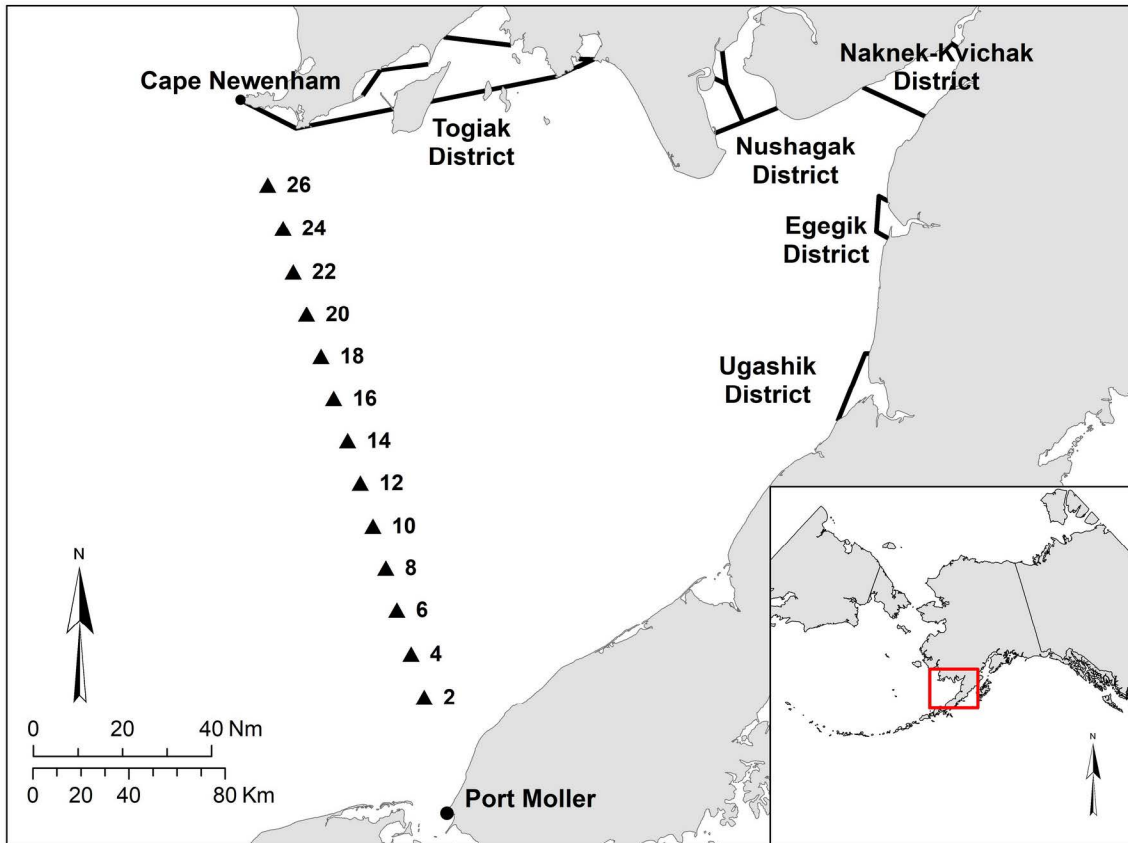
jordan@bbsri.org



Crew of the R/V Miss Leona (Left to Right): Captain Chris, Deck boss Lee Cruz-Bondurant III, ADFG Genotyper Zac Grauvogel, BBSRI Genotyper Mary Powers, BBSRI Technician Max Binder, BBSRI Technician Elijah Lindley, Deckhand Thor Methodius Berestoff.



Crew of the R/V St. Andrew (Left to Right, Back to Front): Captain Adam Maw, Crewmate Spencer Maw, BBSRI Technician Grace Turner, Deck boss Conor Mulvey, BBSRI Technician Jack Wrigley. (Not Pictured - Captain Robert Maw)



Map of the Study Area: Shows the stations of the 2025 Port Moller Test fishery and the locations of Bristol Bay fishing districts. Sockeye passing the test fishery stations take approximately six to nine days to reach the Bristol Bay districts in typical years.

[BBSRI Inseason Data Page \(Click Here\)](#)

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