
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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Time: 3:00 p.m.

2019 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 23-29). 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 four 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 to eastern lower Chatham Straits (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 the Point Gardner test fishery and the *F/V Empress* will be conducting the Kingsmill test fishery.

Point Gardner: The first test fishery was conducted on Monday, June 24. All seven scheduled sets were completed. Pink and chum salmon harvests were well below average. Male sex ratios for pink salmon were below average and were above average for chum salmon; however, sample sizes were small so results may be inconclusive.

Kingsmill: The first test fishery will occur next week.

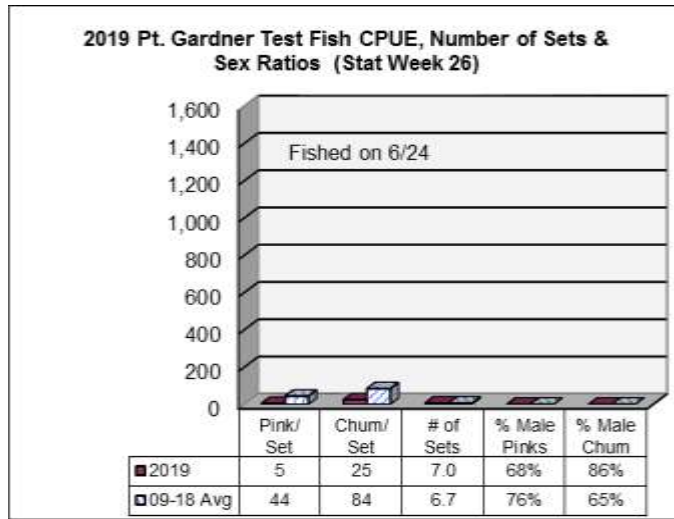
Run Strength: The pink and chum salmon returns to Frederick Sound appears to be weaker than normal as indicated by the poor harvests. However, it is difficult to gauge the run strength after one test fishing period. Next week's test fisheries will give a better indication of run strength for both pink and chum salmon.

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. As noted, the sex ratios may not be conclusive due to the small sample sizes. If they were representative, then the pink salmon run timing would be earlier than normal as indicated by the below average sex ratio and the chum salmon run would be later than normal as indicated by the above average sex ratio.

Average Weights:

-Point Gardner: pink salmon: 4.5 pounds; chum salmon: 9.9 pounds.

Next Test Fisheries: Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries are scheduled for Monday, July 1.



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