



## Advisory Announcement

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### 2020 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 21 - 27). However, the test fishery start has been delayed one week for the 2020 season and began statistical week 27 (June 28 - July 4). 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 28 - July 4). 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* is conducting the Kingsmill test fishery.

**Point Gardner:** The first test fishery was conducted on Monday, June 29. All seven scheduled sets were completed. Pink and chum salmon harvests were well below average. Male sex ratios for pink salmon were above average. The sample size for chum salmon was too small to be conclusive.

**Kingsmill:** The first test fishery will occur this week (SW 27).

**Run Strength:** Based on the available data pink and chum salmon returns to Frederick Sound are below average for the time of year. 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.

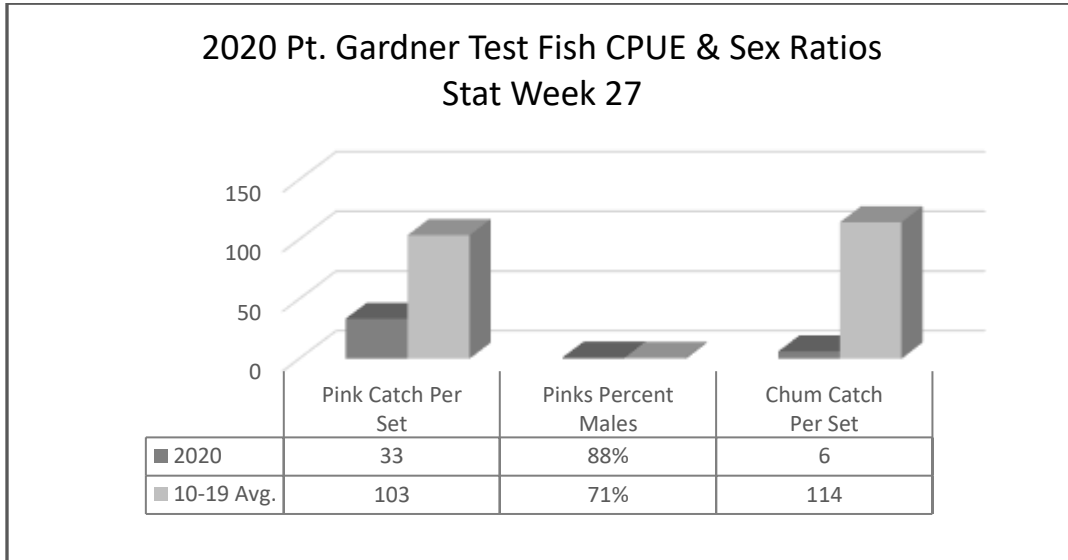
**Sex Ratio Sampling:** Sex ratio sampling is used as a tool in determining run timing. Numbers of males are higher during the beginning of the run and females are more numerous during the latter part of the run. Comparing this year's sex ratios to the historical average provides a comparison of annual run timing to previous years. As noted, the sex ratios may not be conclusive due to the small sample sizes and it is too early in the run to draw any conclusions from the limited data available.

#### **Average Weights:**

-Point Gardner: pink salmon: 4.6 pounds; chum salmon: 8.6 pounds.

**Next Test Fisheries:** Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries are scheduled to occur during the week of July 5.

Under Alaska's Health Mandates 10, 17, and 18, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>



\*No data available on chum percent males.

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

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