



Advisory Announcement

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2020 POINT GARDNER AND KINGSMILL TEST FISHERIES UPDATE #5

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 was 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 fisheries and the *F/V Empress* is conducting the Kingsmill test fisheries. Note: all data is compared to the most recent 10-year average (2010-2019).

Point Gardner: The fifth test fishery was conducted on Monday, July 27 (statistical week 31). Seven sets were completed. Pink salmon catches were approaching average while chum salmon catches were well below average (Figure 1).

Kingsmill: The fourth test fishery was conducted on Friday, July 24 (statistical week 30). Five sets were completed. Pink and chum salmon catches were well below average (Figure 2).

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. The Pt. Gardner test fishery male sex ratio was above average for pink salmon and below average for chum salmon. There was no data available for the Kingsmill male salmon sex ratio average for statistical week 30.

Run Strength: Based on the available data, pink and chum salmon abundance in Frederick Sound remains below average for the time of year. The Point Gardner test fishery continues to indicate a later than average run timing while the Kingsmill test fishery indicates a near average run timing.

Next Test Fisheries: There will be no more test fisheries conducted for Kingsmill or Pt. Gardner in the 2020 season.

Average Weights:

-Pt. Gardner average weights for statistical week 31: pink salmon: 3.5 pounds; chum salmon: 5.9 pounds.

Figure 1.-2020 Point Gardner pink and chum salmon test fishery results and 10-year average.

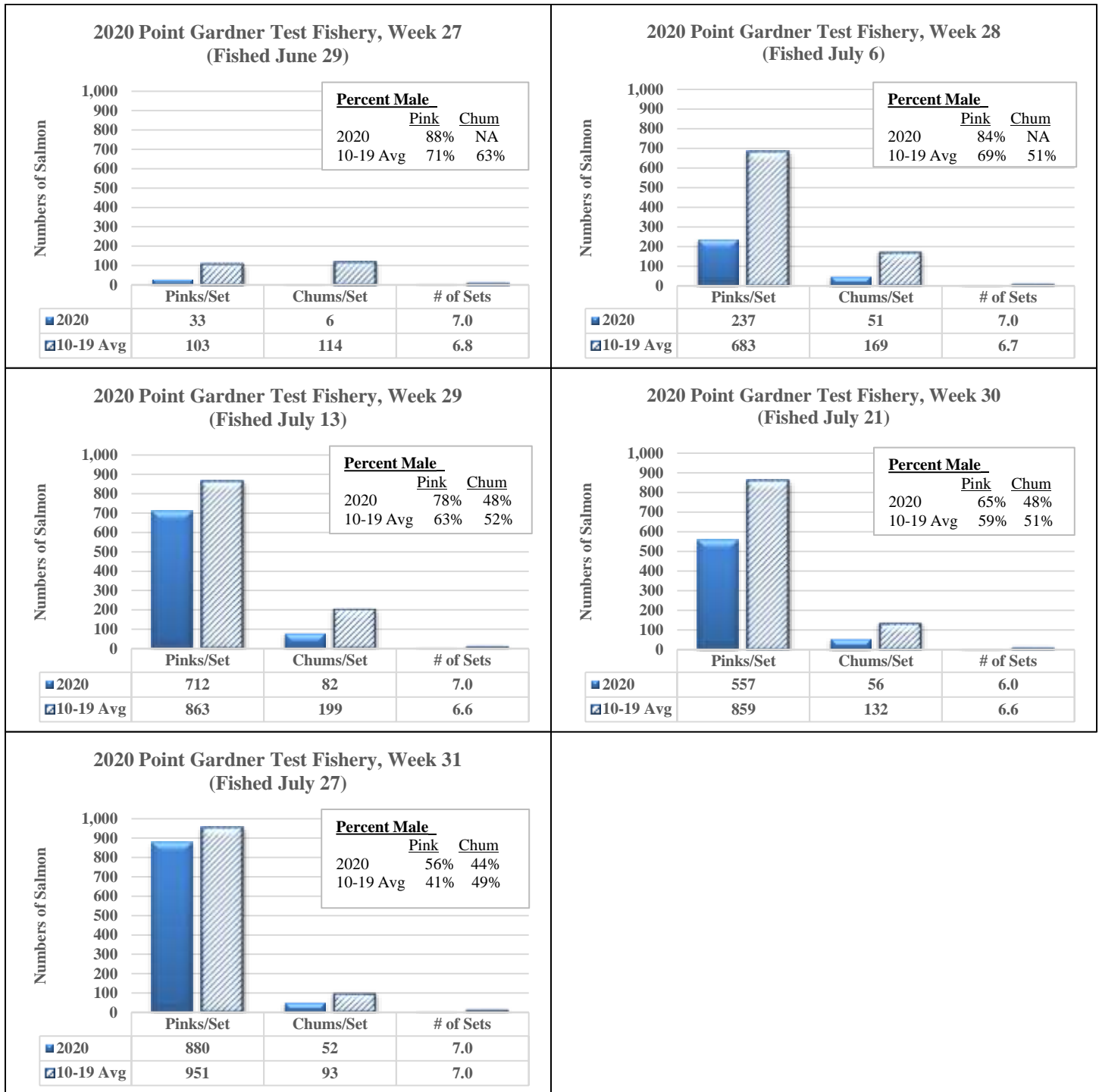
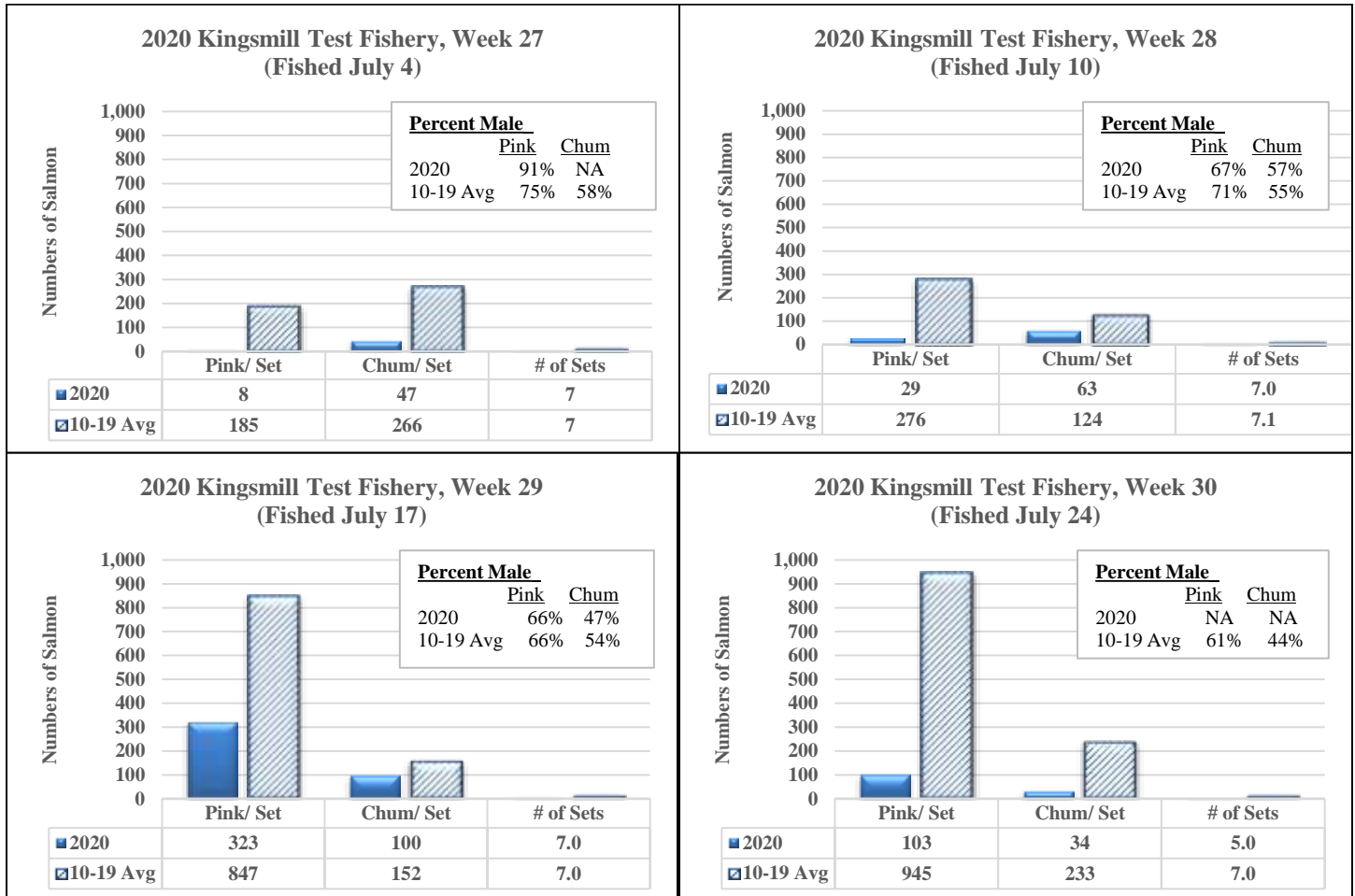


Figure 2.-2020 Kingsmill pink and chum salmon test fishery results and 10-year average.



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/>

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

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