
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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Date: July 11, 2014
Time: 11:00 a.m.

2014 POINT GARDNER AND KINGSMILL POINT TEST FISHERIES UPDATE #3

The Point Gardner and Kingsmill Point test fisheries are ongoing projects that assess pink and chum salmon abundance of fish returning to Section 9-B and District 10. Test fishing at Point Gardner typically occurs one day per week for 5 weeks starting in statistical week 26. The Kingsmill Point test fishery typically occurs once per week for four weeks starting in statistical week 27. 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 Point 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). The results from the Kingsmill test fishery are generally less conclusive since the test fishery will catch both 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 Point test fishery. The F/V *St. Janet* and the F/V *Empress* have conducted the test fisheries in the past and have a great deal of experience fishing in the test fishing area.

Point Gardner: The third test fishery was conducted on Thursday, July 10, 2014, by the F/V *St. Janet*. Seven sets were completed. Both the pink and chum salmon catch per set were well below the recent 10-year average. The pink salmon sex ratio was 67% male, which is below the average of 71% for week 28. Chum salmon were not sampled for sex ratios this test fishing period. King, sockeye, and coho salmon are also caught during test fisheries but are incidental and minor in relation to the pink and chum salmon harvest.

Kingsmill: The first test fishery was conducted on Wednesday, July 9, by the F/V *Empress*. All seven sets were completed for the week. Both the pink and chum salmon catch per set were below the recent 10-year average. The pink salmon sex ratio was 69% male, which is above the average of 65% for stat week 28. The chum salmon sex ratio was 53% male, which is near the average of 54%. King, sockeye, and coho salmon are also caught during test fisheries but are incidental and minor in relation to the pink and chum salmon harvest.

Run Strength: The pink salmon run passing by both test fisheries at the entrance to Frederick Sound appears to be weak. The chum run passing through the test areas appears to be slightly weaker than average as indicated by lower than average catch.

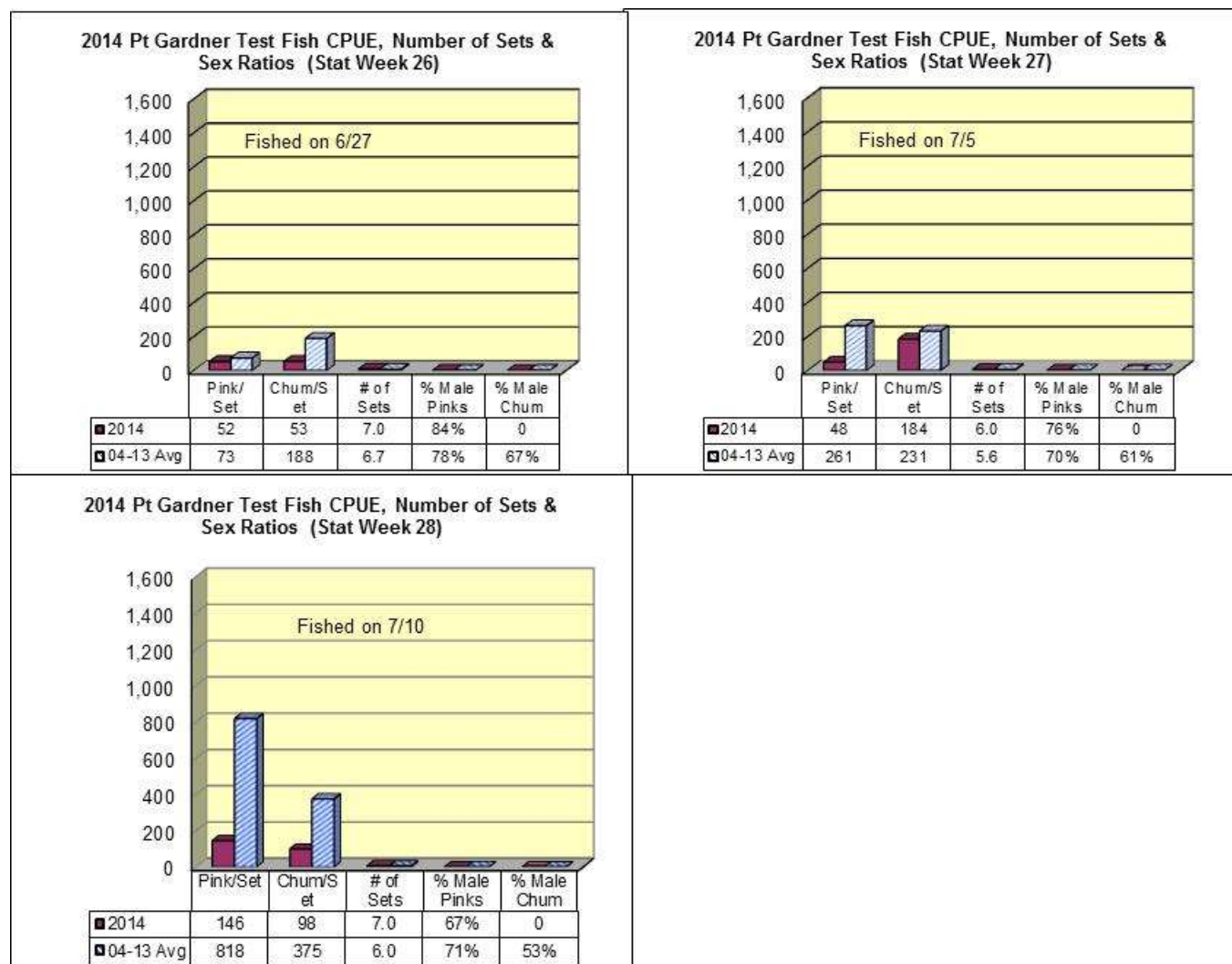
Sex Ratio Sampling: Sex ratio sampling is used as a tool in determining run timing. Numbers of males are higher during the first half of the run and females are more numerous during the last half of the run. Comparing this year's percentage of males in the fishery this week, to the historical average, provides an indication of whether the run is earlier, later, or similar in run timing to previous returns. The Point

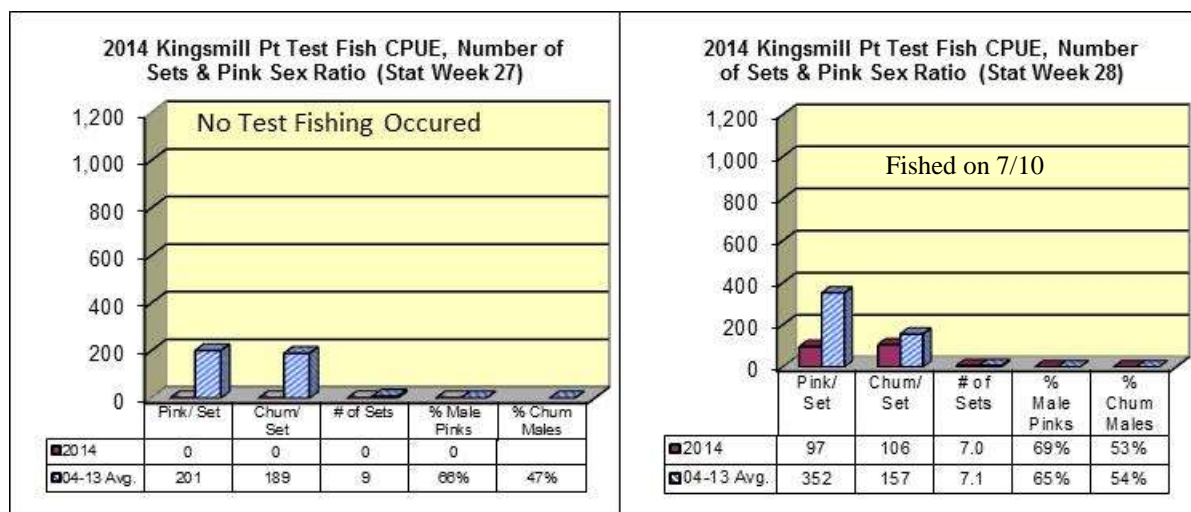
Gardner test fishery had a lower percentage of males than normal, indicating the pink run may be earlier than average; however, this week's sex ratio departs from the trend of above average sex ratios observed in the first two test fisheries and has not reached the midpoint of the run to date. Pink and chum salmon sex ratios from the Kingsmill test fishery were near their historical average, which indicates the run timing for these areas to be within historical average timing.

Average Weights:

- Point Gardner: pinks: 3.23 pounds; chums: 8.13 pounds.
- Kingsmill: pinks: 3.46 pounds; chums: 8.25 pounds.

Next Test Fisheries: Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries are tentatively scheduled for Friday, July 18.





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