ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
FISHERY UPDATE

Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director

Contact:
Troy Thynes
Kevin Clark
Phone: (907) 772-3801
Fax: (907) 772-9336

Petersburg Area Office
16 Sing Lee Alley
Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Date: July 21, 2014
Time: 03:10 p.m.

2014 Point Gardner and Kingsmill Point Test Fisheries Update #4

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 areas.

Point Gardner: The fourth test fishery was conducted on Friday, July 18, 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 63% male, which is below the average of 65% 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: No test fishery was conducted for stat week 29.

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

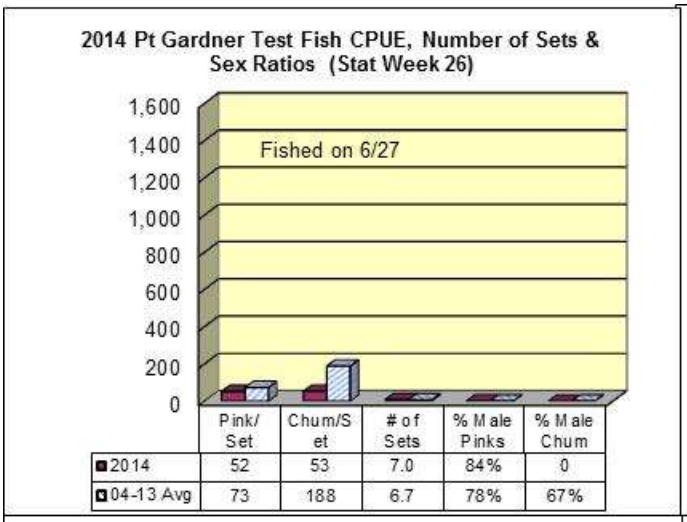
Sex Ratio Sampling: Sex ratio sampling is used as a tool in determining run timing. Numbers of males are higher during the first half of the run and females are more numerous during the last half of the run. Comparing this year's percentage of males in the fishery this week, to the

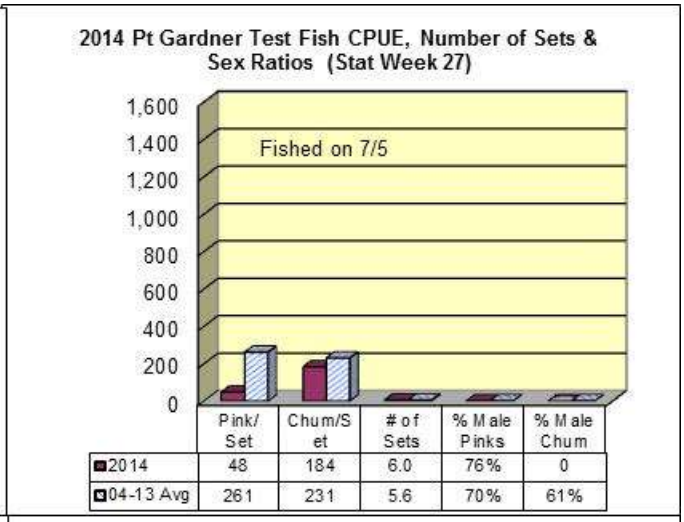
historical average, provides an indication of whether the run is earlier, later, or similar in run timing to previous returns. The Point Gardner test fishery has had mixed results from the sex ratio testing with the first two weeks being above average and the last two weeks being below average. Given the mixed results from sex ratio testing, timing of the pink run at Point Gardner is uncertain at this time; however, the sex ratio indicates the run is nearing the midpoint and not expected to improve.

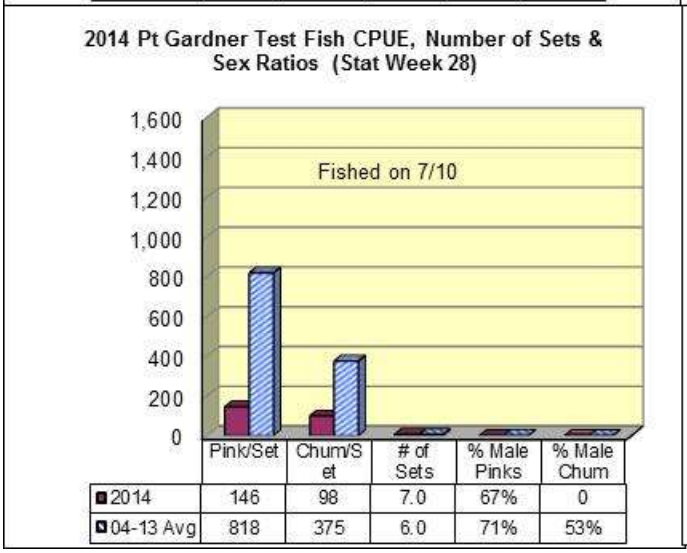
Average Weights:

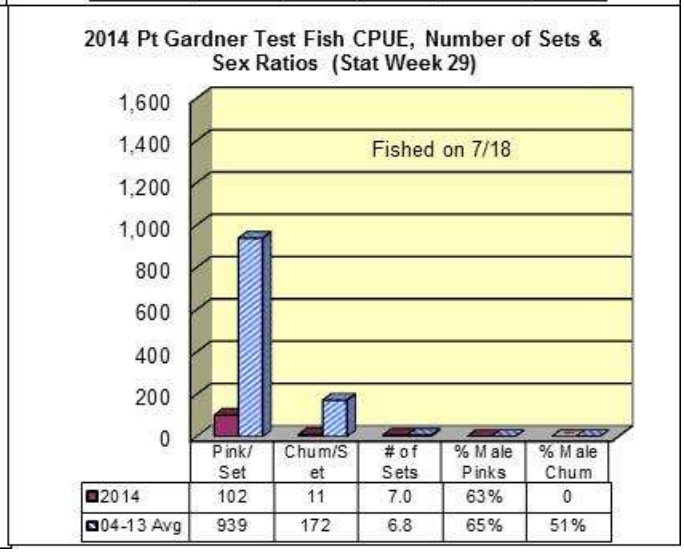
-Point Gardner: pinks - 3.66 pounds; chums - 8.13 pounds (from stat week 28 for chums).

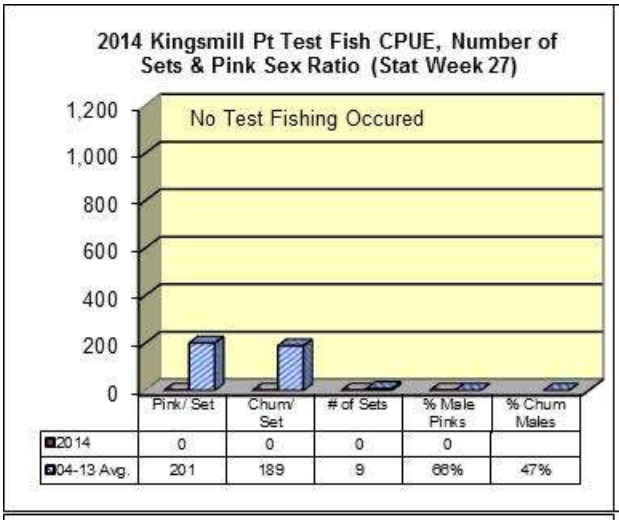
Next Test Fisheries: Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries are tentatively scheduled for Monday, July 28.

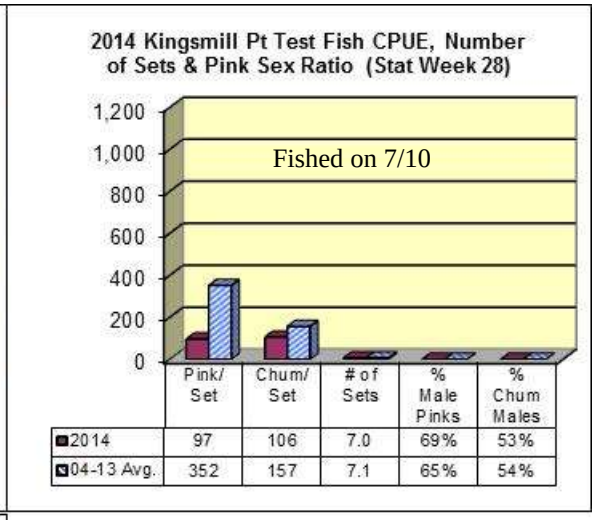


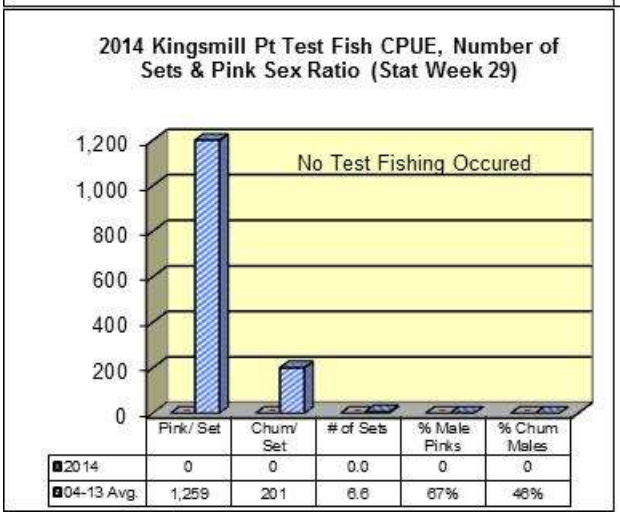












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