
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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Date: July 9, 2015
Time: 1:30 p.m.

2015 POINT GARDNER AND KINGSMILL TEST FISHERIES UPDATE #3

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-June 27). The Kingsmill test fishery occurs one day per week for four weeks starting in statistical week 27 (June 28-July 4). 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 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 Jean C. is conducting the Point Gardner test fishery and F/V Magnus Martens is conducting the Kingsmill Point test fishery.

Point Gardner: Point Gardner's third test fishery was conducted at on Tuesday, July 7, 2015, by the F/V Jean C. with nine sets completed. Pink salmon harvest and catch per set were well below average in statistical week 28. Chum salmon catch remained below average and has been relatively stable. Sex ratio for pink salmon was 69% male, which is slightly below the average of 70% for statistical week 28. Chum salmon was 58% male, which is above the average of 53% for statistical week 28.

Kingsmill: The first Kingsmill Test Fishery was conducted at on Saturday, July 4, 2015, by the F/V Magnus Martens with seven sets completed. Pink salmon harvest and catch per set were above average for statistical week 28. Chum salmon catch was well below average. Sex ratio for pink salmon was 65% male, which is near the average of 66% for statistical week 28. Chum salmon were not sexed in statistical week 28.

Run Strength: The pink salmon run passing by the test fisheries at the entrance to Frederick Sound was showing stronger than average runs indicated by strong catches for statistical weeks 26 and 27 for the Point Gardner Test Fishery and strong harvests from the Kingsmill Test Fishery. Indications from the last test fishing periods show a slowing of the pink harvest to near average in the Kingsmill section and below average harvests in the Point Gardner section. Harvest rates for pink salmon historically have started to increase in statistical week 28 versus decreasing trends that have been seen in 2015 to date. This decrease in harvest for week 28 may well be an anomaly.

Chum salmon run passing through the test area appear to be weaker than average as initially indicated by lower than average catch in both areas. Statistical week 28 indicated that chum salmon indicators in the

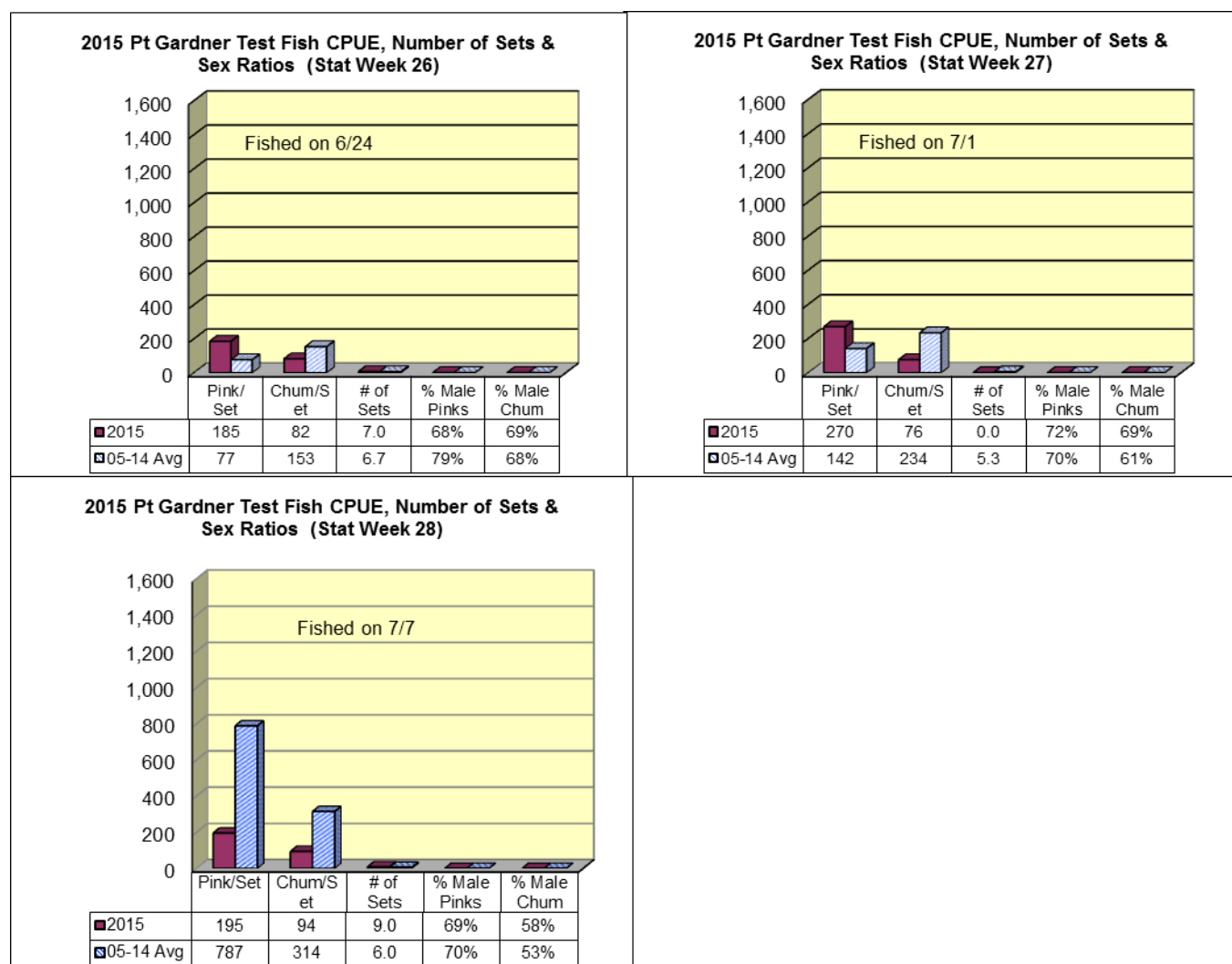
Point Gardner Test Fishery were still well below average; however, the catch rates for chum salmon from the Kingsmill sections showed marked improvement from the first test fishery. Due to the mixed nature of the data, next week's test fisheries will give a better indication of run strength for both pink and chum salmon.

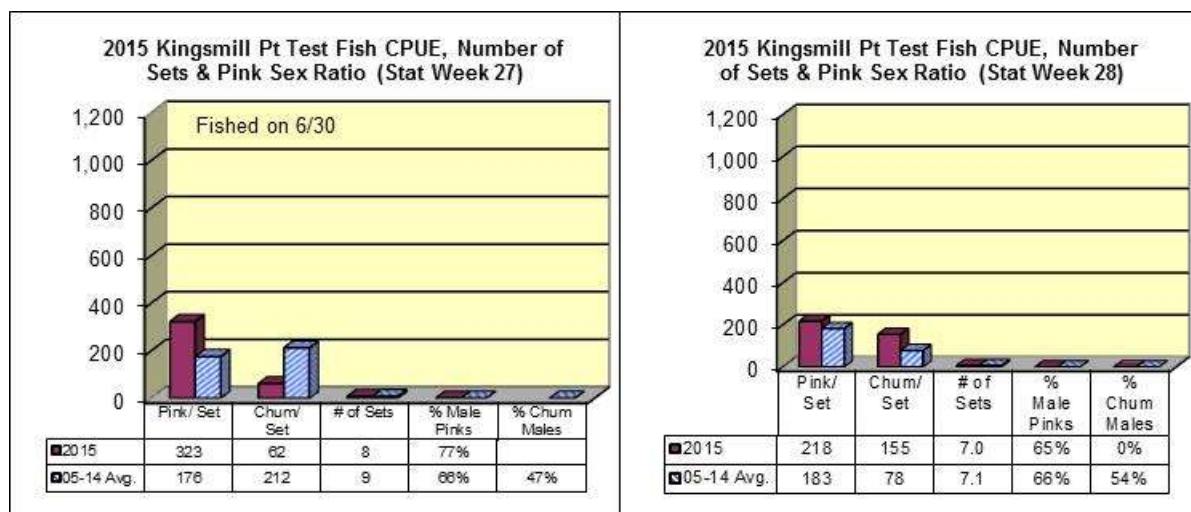
Sex Ratio Sampling: Sex ratio sampling is used as a tool in determining run timing. Numbers of males are higher during the first half of the run and females are more numerous during the last half of the run. Comparing this year's percentage of males in the fishery this week to the historical average, provides an indication of whether the run is earlier, later, or similar in run timing to previous returns. Point Gardner's percentage of males has shown mixed results in 2015 with the first test fishery being below average and the next two test fishing periods being near average, which indicates near normal trends in run timing for pink salmon to date. Run timing for pink salmon in the Kingsmill is uncertain based on the sporadic nature of effort in the fishery and incomplete data sets.

Average Weights:

- Point Gardner: pinks: 4.1 pounds; chums: 6.0 pounds.
- Kingsmill: pinks: 4.4 pounds; chums: 7.5 pounds.

Next Test Fisheries: Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries are scheduled for Wednesday, July 15.





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