
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



Sam Cotten, 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 14, 2015
Time: 1:30 p.m.

2015 POINT GARDNER AND KINGSMILL TEST FISHERIES UPDATE #4

Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries are ongoing projects that assess pink and chum salmon abundance returning to Section 9-B and District 10. 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 the F/V Magnus Martens is conducting the Kingsmill test fishery.

Point Gardner: Point Gardner's fourth test fishery was fished Monday, July 13, 2015, with seven sets completed. Pink salmon harvest and catch per set were just above the statistical week 29 recent 10-year average. Chum salmon harvest improved to just above average. Sex ratio for pink salmon was 62% male, which is slightly below the average of 65% for statistical week 29. Chum salmon was 60% male, which is above the average of 51% for statistical week 29.

Kingsmill: The fourth Kingsmill test fishery was conducted Monday, July 13, 2015, with seven sets completed. Pink salmon catch was well below average for statistical week 29. Chum salmon catch was also well below average. Sex ratio for pink salmon was 72% male, which is above the average of 67% for statistical week 29. Chum salmon were not sexed in statistical week 29. A third test fishery was fished on Friday, July 10. Results from that fishery were similar to Monday's test fishery with below average catches of pink salmon.

Run Strength: The pink salmon run passing by the test fisheries at the entrance to Frederick Sound does not appear to be strong as indicated by the mixed results from both test fisheries. The test fisheries have shown a mix of well below average to above average pink salmon catches.

The chum salmon run passing through the test area appear to be weaker than average as indicated by generally below average catches in both areas.

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

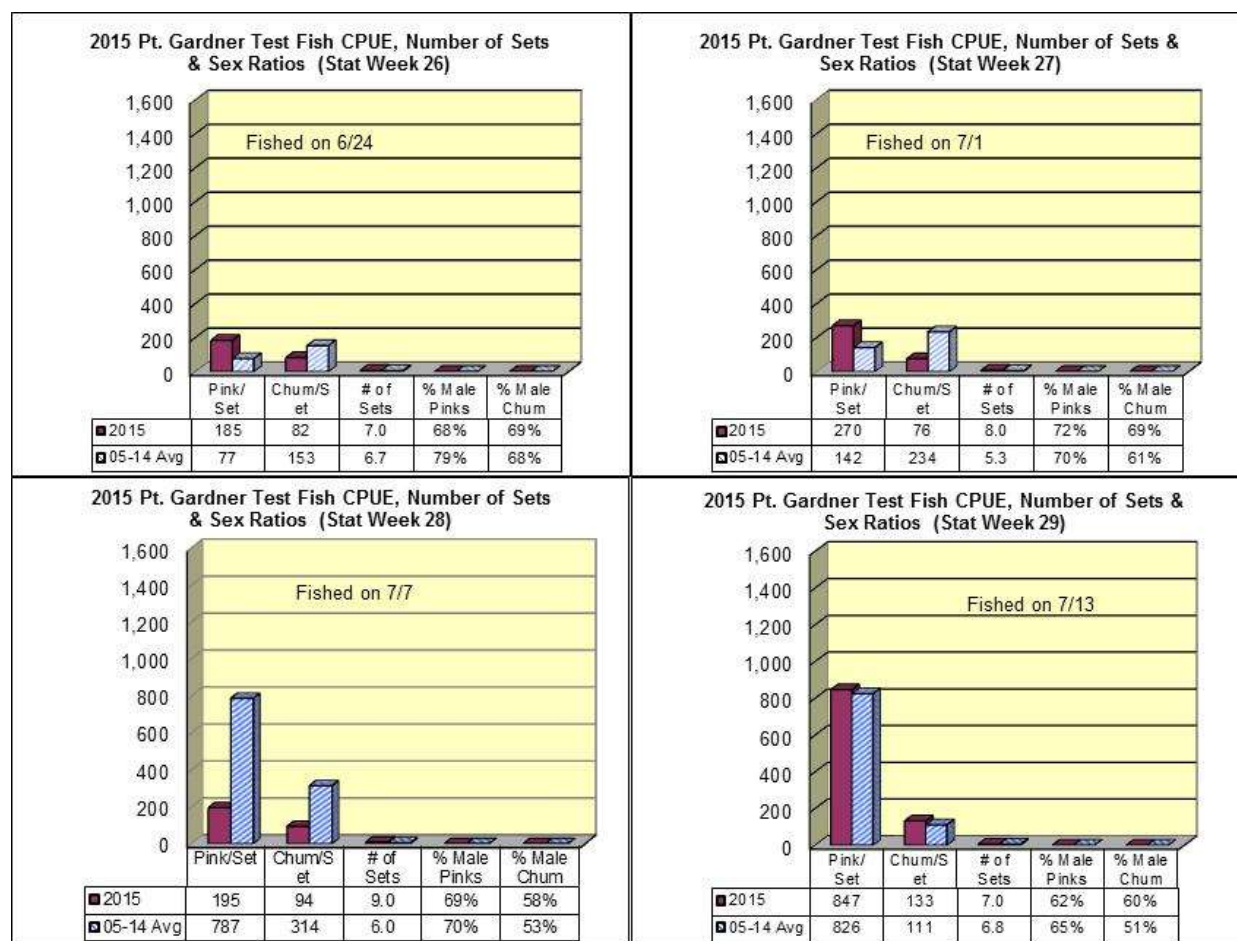
indication of whether the run is earlier, later, or similar in run timing to previous returns. Point Gardner's percentage of males continued to show mixed results in 2015 with the sex ratios alternating above and below average with no results being well above or well below average. Overall the near average sex ratios would indicate normal run timing. Two of the three Kingsmill test fishing periods have yielded above to well above average sex ratios indicating a later than normal run. Between the test fisheries, the sex ratios are fairly inconclusive and would at best indicate normal to slightly later than normal pink salmon run timing.

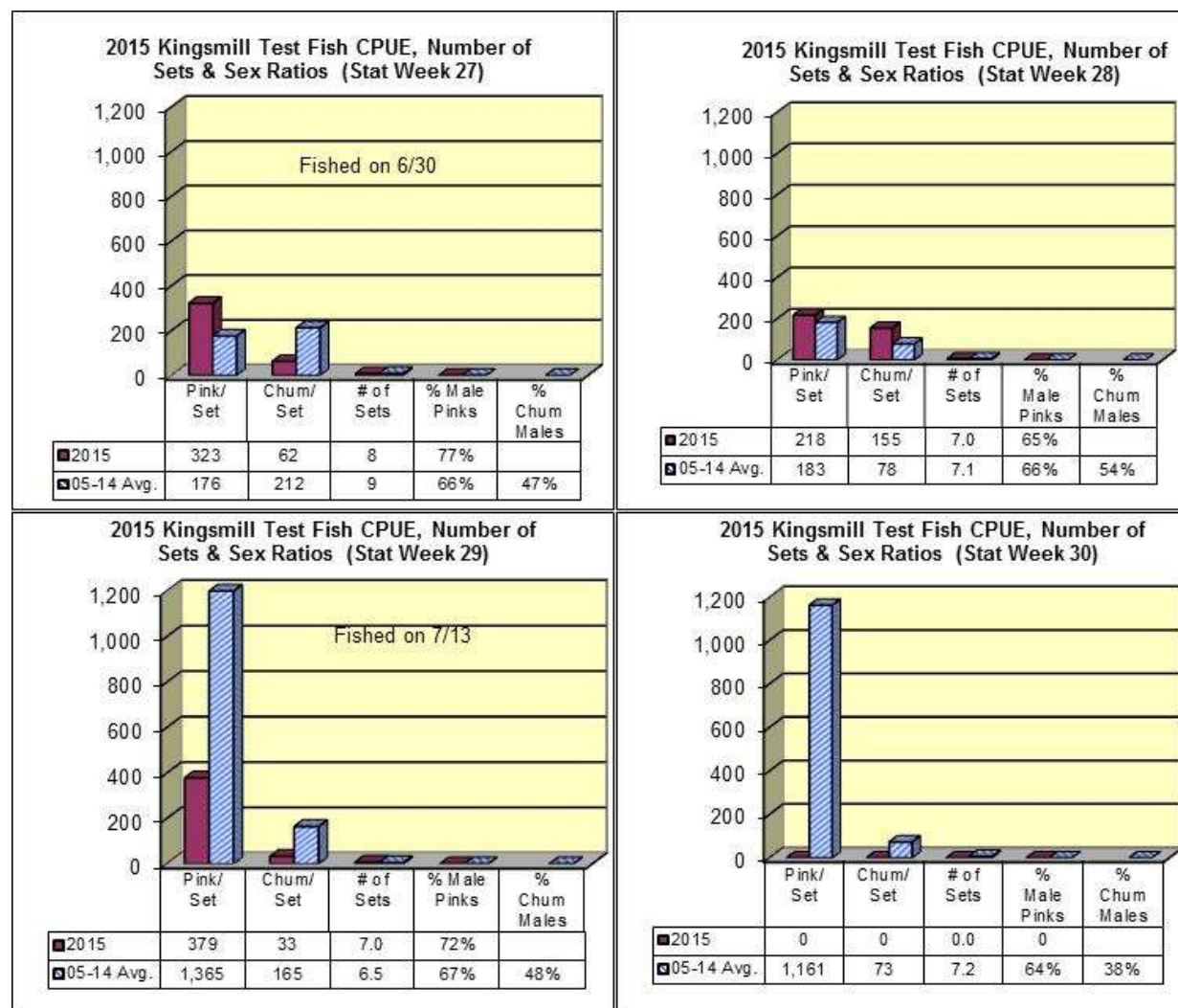
Average Weights:

- Point Gardner: pinks: 4.2 pounds; chums: 6.5 pounds.
- Kingsmill: pinks: 4.5 pounds; chums: 6.4 pounds.

Next Test Fisheries: The final Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries are scheduled for Wednesday, July 21.

Point Gardner Test Fishery Weekly Results



Kingsmill Test Fishery Weekly Results

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Hoonah	Yakutat
ADF&G	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000		945-3620	
Seine Hotline	225-6870	772-3700		747-8522	465-8905			