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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### FISHERY UPDATE



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
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#### 2015 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. 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 fifth and final test fishery for 2015 was fished Monday, July 20, 2015, with seven sets completed. Pink salmon harvest and catch per set were above the statistical week 30 recent 10-year average. Chum salmon harvest was below average for statistical week 30. Sex ratio for pink salmon was 56% male, which is slightly below the average of 59% for statistical week 30. Chum salmon was 52% male, which is above the average of 49% for statistical week 30.

**Kingsmill:** The fifth and final Kingsmill test fishery for 2015 was conducted Monday, July 20, 2015, with seven sets completed. Pink salmon catch was well above average for statistical week 30 and behind only 2007 for catch per set in recent history. Chum salmon catch was also slightly above average. Sex ratio for pink salmon was 63% male, which is near the average of 64% for statistical week 30. Chum salmon were not sexed in statistical week 30.

**Run Strength:** Results from both test fisheries at the entrance to Frederick Sound in 2015 have been mixed and does not appear to indicate a strong run of pink salmon.

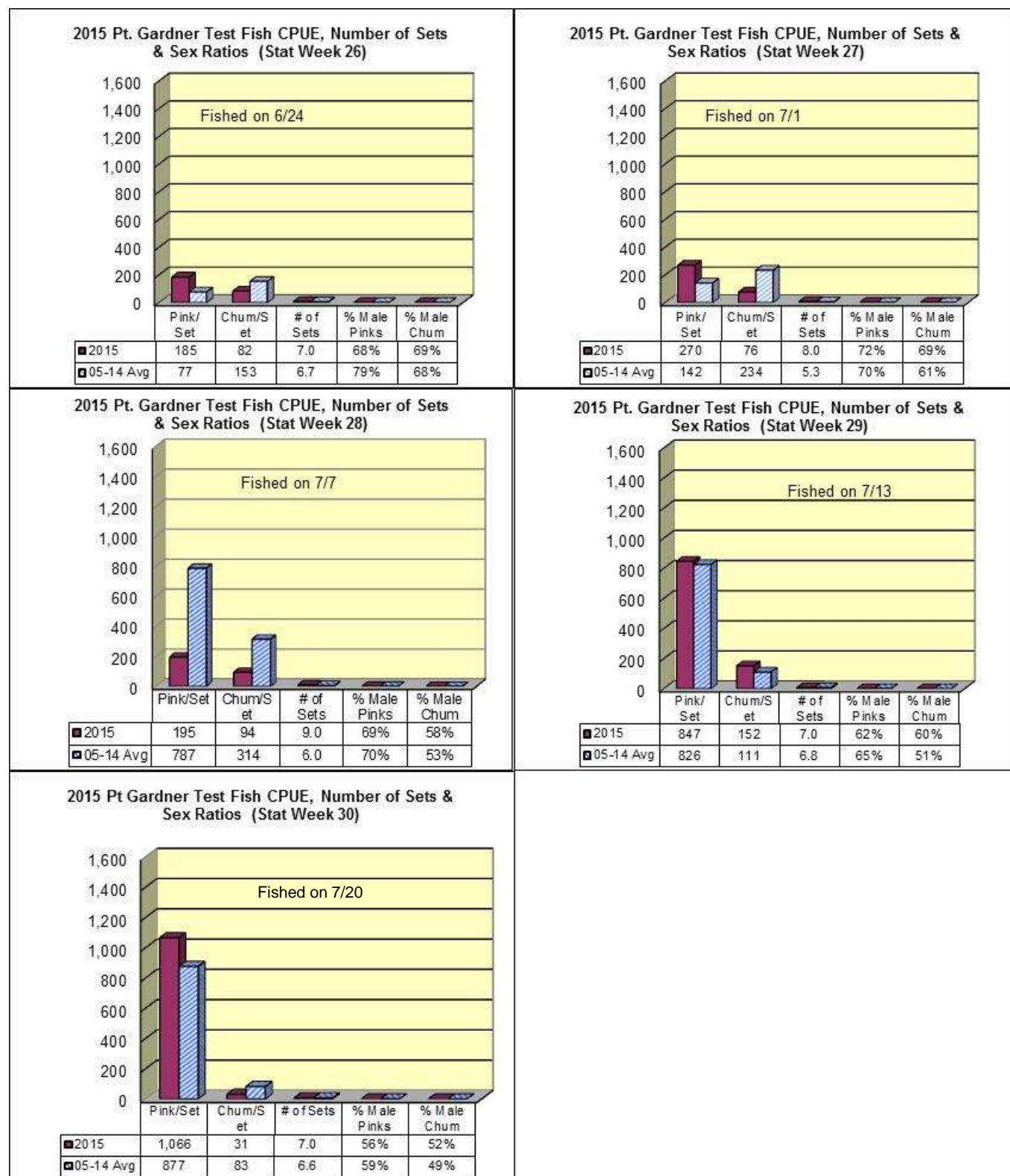
Chum salmon appear to be weaker than average as indicated by generally below average catches in both areas.

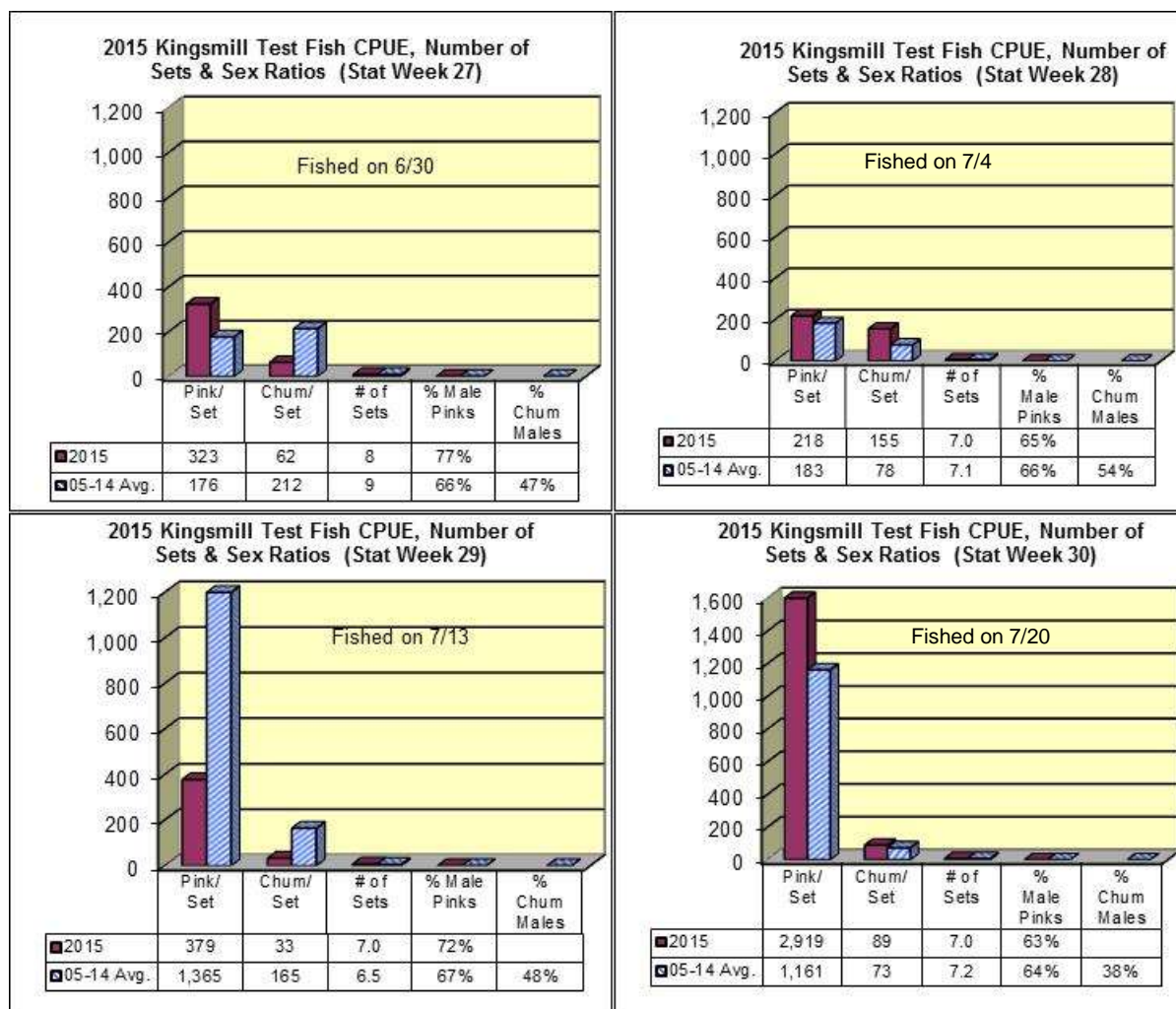
**Sex Ratio Sampling:** Sex ratio sampling is used as a tool in determining run timing. Numbers of males are higher during the first half of the run and females are more numerous during the last half of the run. Comparing this year's percentage of males in the fishery this week, to the historical average,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

below average with no results being well above or well below average. Overall, sex ratios would indicate normal run timing. Kingsmill test fishing has been mixed and yielded near to well above average sex ratios indicating later than normal run. Combining the two test fisheries, the sex ratios are fairly inconclusive and would indicate normal to slightly later than normal pink salmon run timing.

**Average Weights:**

- Point Gardner: pinks: 4.1 pounds; chums: 7.7 pounds.
- Kingsmill: pinks: 4.1 pounds; chums: 7.7 pounds.

**Point Gardner Test Fishery Weekly Results**

**Kingsmill Test Fishery Weekly Results**

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

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