
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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Time: 1:45 p.m.

2016 POINT GARDNER AND KINGSMILL TEST FISHERIES UPDATE # 6

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 27 (June 26-July 2). The Kingsmill test fishery occurs one day per week for four weeks starting in statistical week 28 (July 3-July 9). 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 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. Comparing the results from the current year's test fisheries to the recent 10-year average can give an indication of run strength and timing.

This year the *F/V St. Janet* conducted the Point Gardner test fishery and the *F/V Magnus Martens* conducted the Kingsmill Point test fishery.

Point Gardner: The fifth and final test fishery was conducted at Point Gardner on Friday, July 29, 2016, by the *F/V St. Janet*. All seven sets were completed yielding a below average harvest rate of pink salmon. Sex ratios for pink salmon were 40% male, which is below the average of 50% for this time period. Pink salmon size remained large with an average weight of 4.3 pounds. The chum salmon harvest rate decreased from previous fishing periods but was still above average. Sex ratio sampling was not performed on chum salmon.

Kingsmill: The fifth and final test fishery was conducted at Kingsmill Point on Friday, July 29, 2016, by the *F/V Magnus Martens*. All seven sets were completed yielding a below average harvest rate of pink salmon. The pink salmon sex ratio was 39% male, which is well below the average of 63% for this time period. The chum salmon harvest rate was slightly above average. Sex ratio sampling was not performed on chum salmon.

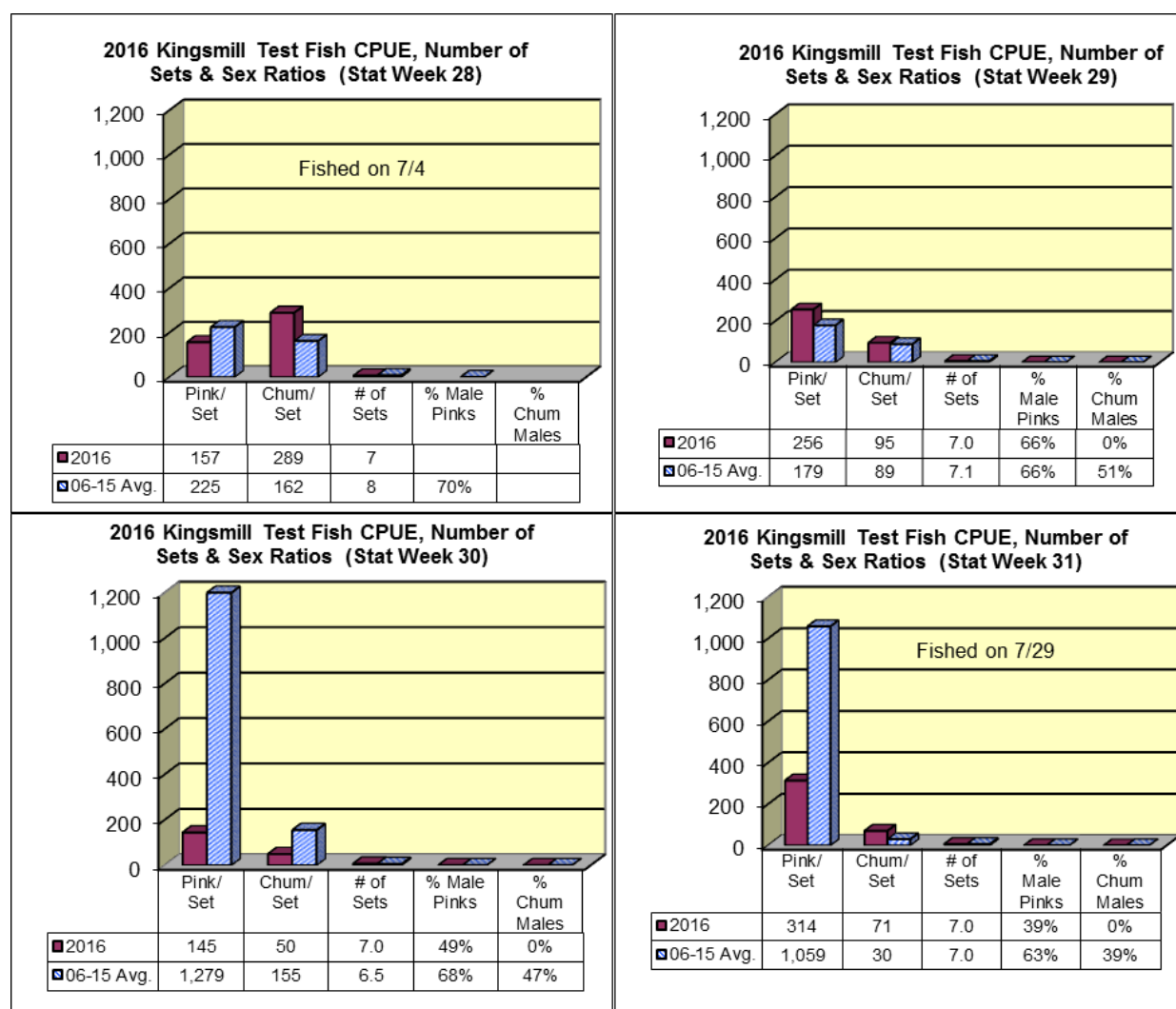
Run Strength: Pink salmon runs passing through the test fishery at the entrance to Frederick Sound are weaker than normal as indicated by lower than average test fish performance. Chum salmon harvest rates in the Point Gardner test fishery have shown mixed signals with below average harvest rates early on to above average in later fishing periods. Chum salmon harvest rates for the Point Gardner test fishery normally begin to wane starting in the middle of July and the above average harvest for these last test fisheries may indicate that the run timing is later than average. However, no sex ratios have been completed to verify this. Chum salmon harvest rates for the Kingsmill test fishery have generally been above average indicating a stronger than normal return to the area.

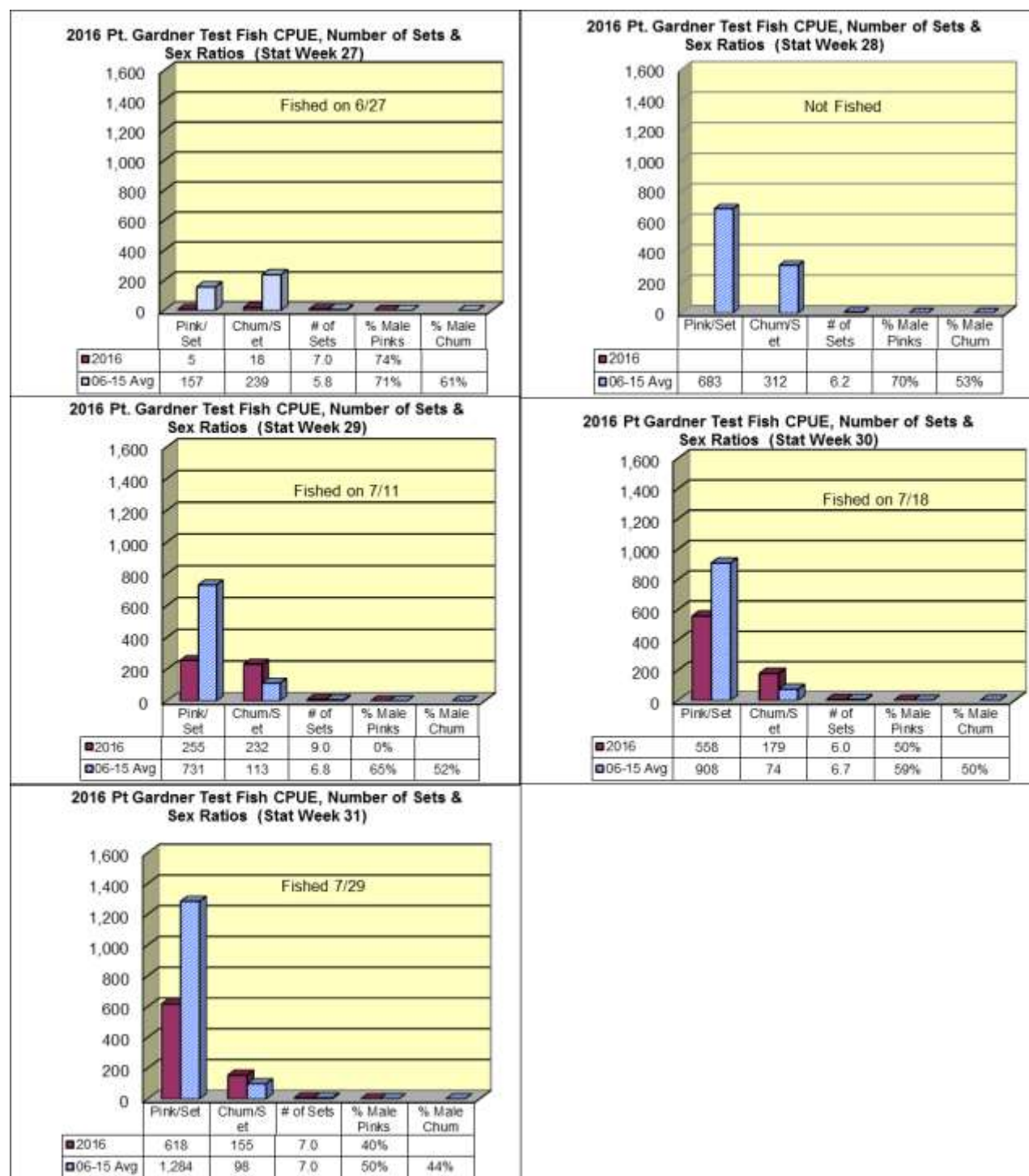
Sex Ratio Sampling: Sex ratio sampling is used as a tool in determining run timing. Numbers of males are higher during the first half of the run and females are more numerous during the last half of the run. Comparing this year's percentage of males in the fishery this week to the historical average provides an indication of whether the run is earlier, later, or similar in run timing to previous returns. The Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries continued to have a lower percentage of males than average indicating pink salmon are earlier than normal and past peak as the percentage of male pink salmon has remained under 50%.

Average Weights:

- Point Gardner: pinks: 4.3 pounds; chum: 5.9 pounds
- Kingsmill: pinks: 5.3 pounds; chum: 6.5 pounds.

Next Test Fisheries: Test fishing in the Point Gardner and Kingsmill areas is completed for the 2016 season.





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