
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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Date: July 27, 2017
Time: 4:15 p.m.

2017 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. Results from the test fishery are summarized below.

Point Gardner: The fifth and final test fishery was conducted at Point Gardner on Monday, July 24, 2017. All seven scheduled sets were completed. Pink salmon harvest was slightly above average. Chum salmon harvest slowed and was slightly below average. 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: The fourth and final test fishery was conducted at Kingsmill on Tuesday, July 25, 2017. All seven scheduled sets were completed. Pink and chum salmon harvests declined this week and were slightly below the 10-year average. Sockeye and coho salmon are also caught during test fisheries but are incidental and minor in relation to the pink and chum salmon harvest.

Run Strength: Both Point Gardner and Kingsmill, in general, have shown above average pink salmon run strength heading into Frederick Sound. This week's Point Gardner pink harvest was above the recent 10-year average. The Kingsmill pink salmon harvest was slightly below the current 10-year average; however, the current 10-year average is an incomplete data set with no fishing occurring in 4 years in stat week 30 and 2 years with very large harvests. Pink salmon runs to the early District 10 mainland systems may be slightly weaker than average based on the initial two test fisheries at Point Gardner. However, pink salmon returns to the later systems in Frederick Sound may be average to above average as indicated by the last three test fishing periods in addition to the results of the Kingsmill test fishery. Chum salmon run strength is likely above average as indicated by the above average harvests in both test fisheries during the preceding three weeks.

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 to the historical average provides an indication of whether the run is earlier, later, or similar in run timing to previous runs. Pink salmon generally peak (50% male) at Point Gardner after stat week 29 and has not varied greatly in 2017, which remains in the lower 60% range. This may indicate an above average return to later pink salmon systems on Admiralty Island. Kingsmill male percentages from test fishing were slightly below average for most of the season and followed the traditional trend of decreasing male percentage, which appears to indicate a run timing slightly earlier than normal. Male chum salmon percentage for Point Gardner has shown mixed results with the male percentage being above and below historical averages and tends to indicate later than normal run timing. Kingsmill chum salmon male percentages have been near average for most of the

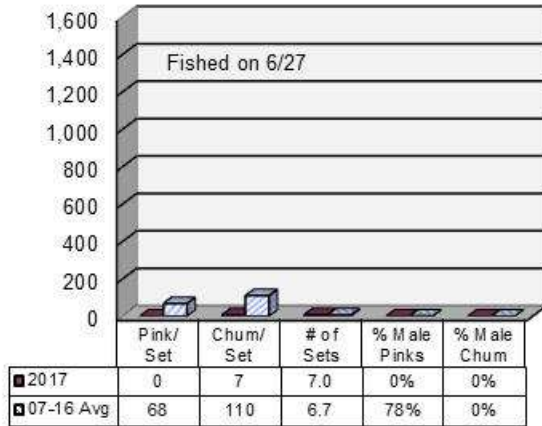
season indicating near average run timing; however, the male percentage of chum salmon was well above average for stat week 30.

Average Weights:

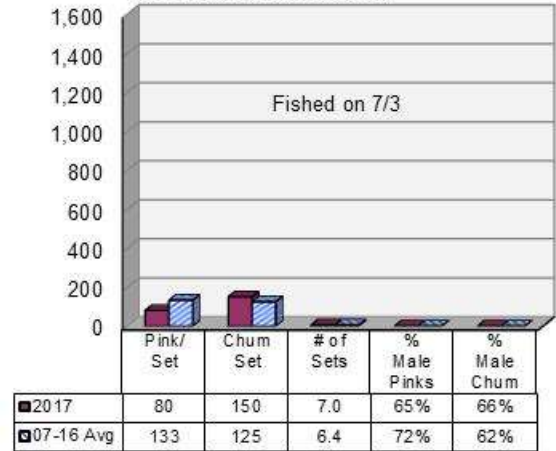
- Point Gardner: pink salmon: 3.3 pounds; chum salmon: 7.7 pounds;
- Kingsmill: pink salmon: 3.3 pounds; chum salmon; 7.5 pounds.

2017 Point Gardner Test Fishery

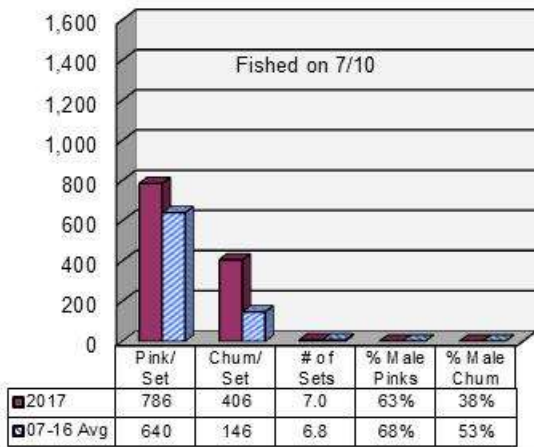
2017 Pt. Gardner Test Fish CPUE, Number of Sets & Sex Ratios (Stat Week 26)



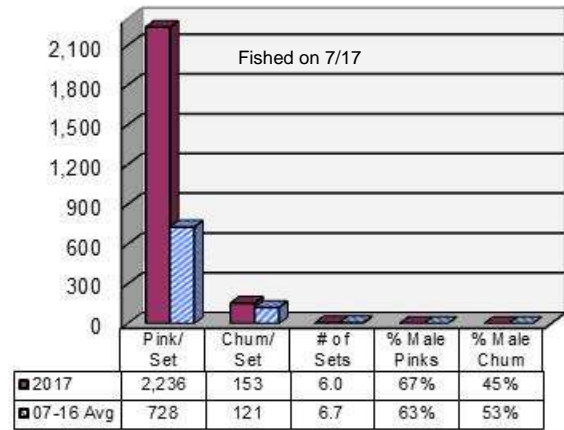
2017 Pt. Gardner Test Fish CPUE, Number of Sets & Sex Ratios (Stat Week 27)



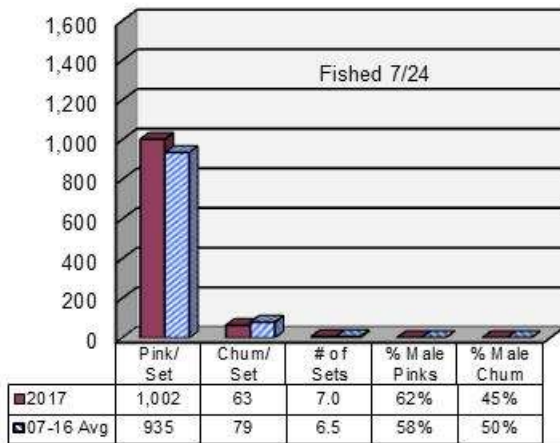
2017 Pt. Gardner Test Fish CPUE, Number of Sets & Sex Ratios (Stat Week 28)



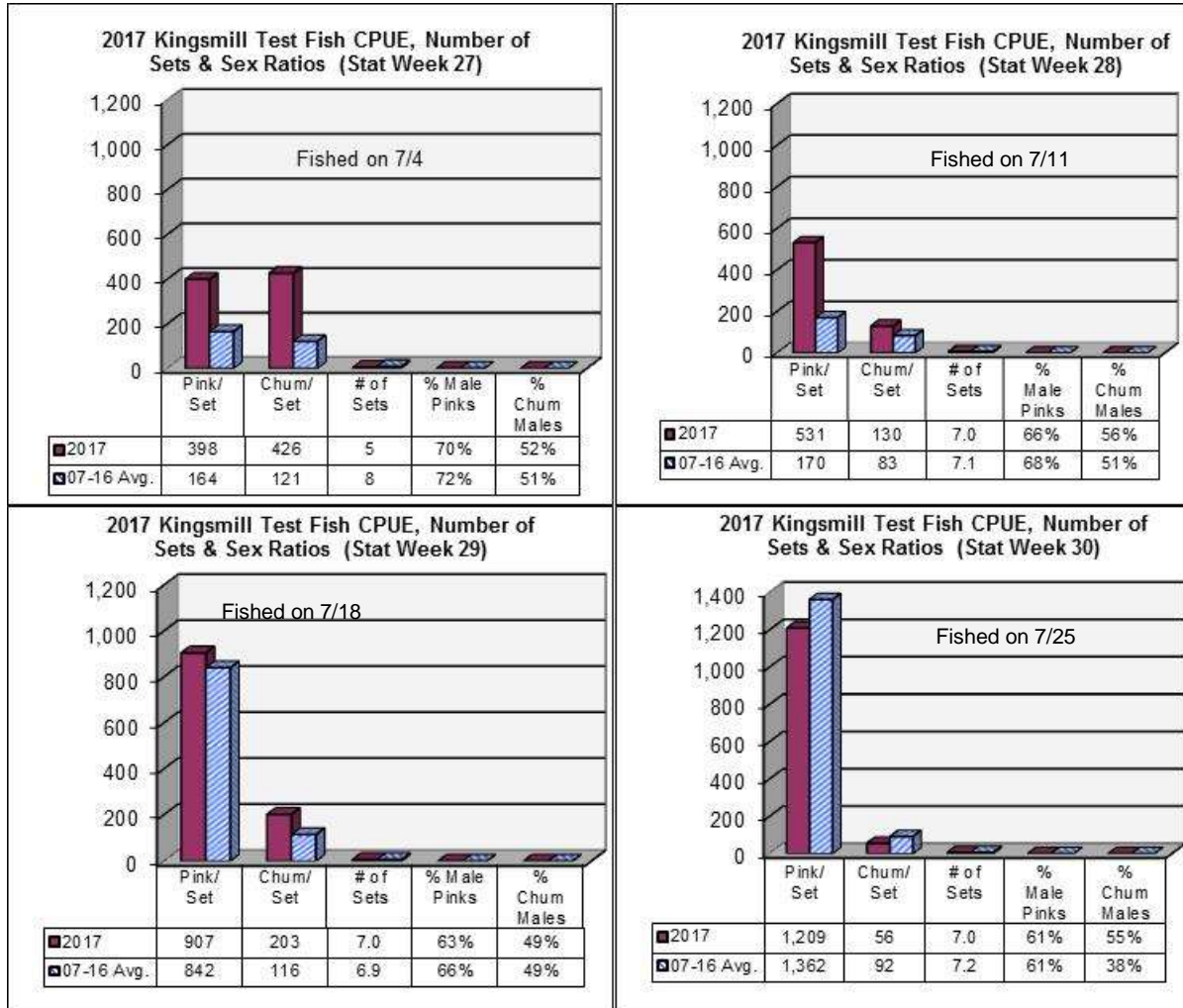
2017 Pt Gardner Test Fish CPUE, Number of Sets & Sex Ratios (Stat Week 29)



2017 Pt Gardner Test Fish CPUE, Number of Sets & Sex Ratios (Stat Week 30)



2017 Kingsmill Test Fishery



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