
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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2018 POINT GARDNER AND KINGSMILL TEST FISHERIES UPDATE #2

Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries are ongoing projects which assess pink and chum salmon abundance returning to Section 9-B and District 10. The Point Gardner test fishery has proven to be a 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 St. Janet* is conducting both test fisheries.

Point Gardner: The second test fishery was conducted on Monday, July 2. All seven scheduled sets were completed. Pink salmon harvest was well below average and was the lowest on record for the test fishery with only 1 pink salmon harvested. Chum salmon harvest was also well below average. Sex ratios for pink and chum salmon were not taken for the week due to the small sample size.

Kingsmill: The second test fishery on the Kingsmill shoreline was conducted on Tuesday, July 3. Historically, week 27 would have been the initial starting week for test fishing on the Kingsmill shoreline. All seven scheduled sets were completed. Pink salmon harvest was well below average. Sex ratio for pink salmon was 80% male, which is above the recent 10-year average. Chum salmon harvest was above average. Sex ratio for chum salmon was 66% male, which is above the recent 10-year average.

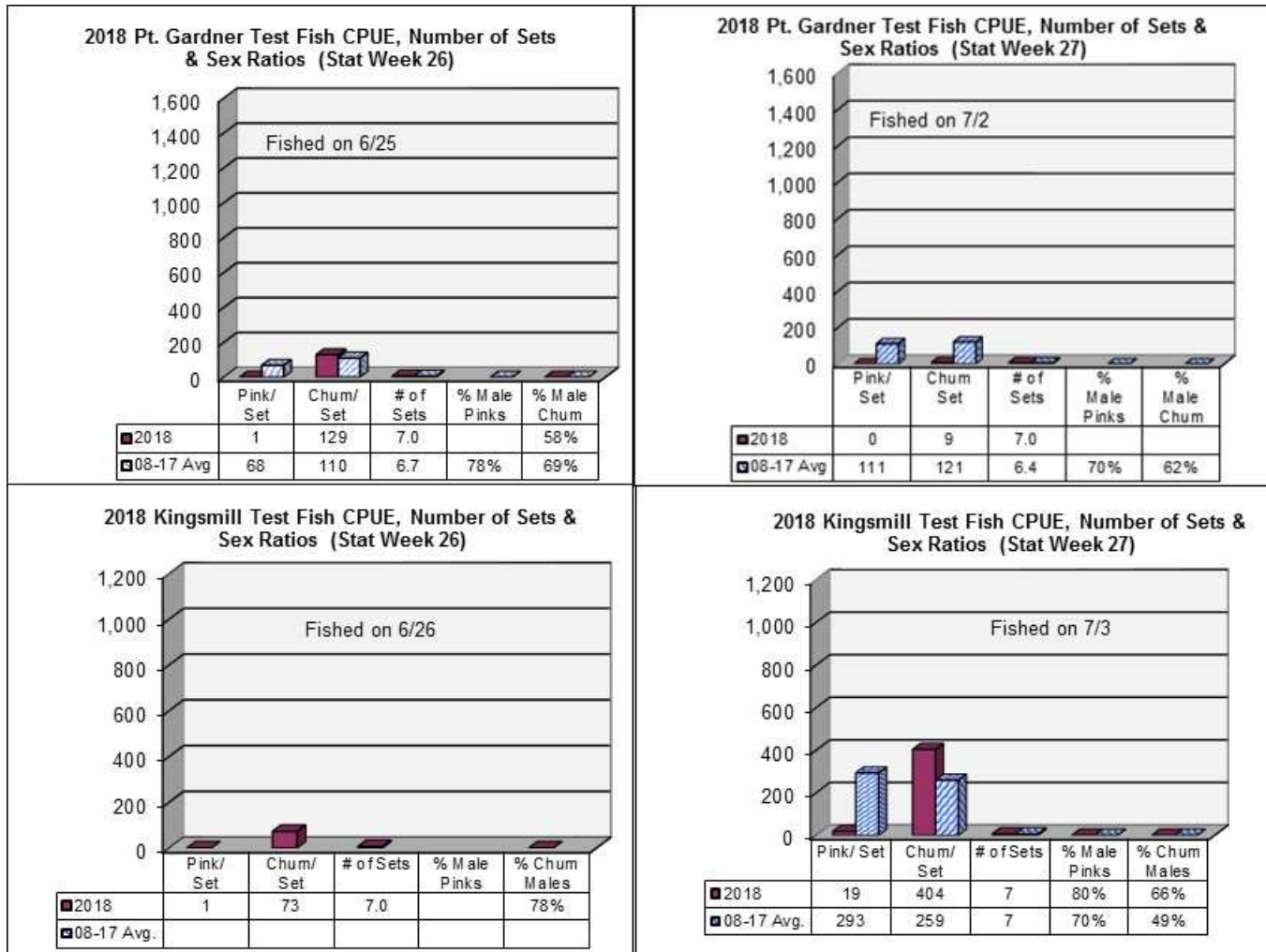
Run Strength: The pink salmon return to Frederick Sound appears to be weak as indicated by the continued record poor harvests at both Point Gardner and Kingsmill. Chum salmon abundance based on test fishing results show mixed trends with Kingsmill being above average and Point Gardner being well below average. The high chum salmon harvest at Kingsmill is likely an indication of a good return of hatchery chum salmon to Southeast Cove.

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. No sex ratios have been taken at this time for pink salmon due to low numbers of pink salmon harvested at Point Gardner. The percentage of male pink salmon harvested on the Kingsmill shoreline was above average, which would indicate a slightly later than average run timing for the Kingsmill area. Chum salmon male percentages were well above the recent 10-year average along the Kingsmill shoreline indicating a later than normal run timing.

Average Weights:

- Point Gardner: pink salmon: insufficient data; chum salmon: insufficient data.
- Kingsmill: pink salmon: 3.6; chum salmon: 8.7 pounds.

Next Test Fisheries: Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries are scheduled for Monday, July 9.



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