
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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2018 POINT GARDNER AND KINGSMILL TEST FISHERIES UPDATE #3

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 third test fishery was conducted on Monday, July 9. All seven scheduled sets were completed. Pink salmon harvest was well below average and was the lowest on record for the week with only 51 pink salmon harvested. Chum salmon harvest was also well below average. Sex ratio for pink salmon was 69% male, which is near the recent 10-year average. Sex ratio for chum salmon was 48% male, which is below the recent 10-year average.

Kingsmill: The third test fishery on the Kingsmill shoreline was conducted on Tuesday, July 10. Only four of the seven scheduled sets were completed due to inclement weather. Pink salmon harvest was slightly above average. Sex ratio for pink salmon was 74% male, which is above the recent 10-year average. Chum salmon harvest was above average. Sex ratio for chum salmon was 52% male, which is near the recent 10-year average.

Run Strength: Pink salmon returning to Frederick Sound appears weak as indicated by the continued record poor harvests at Point Gardner. Kingsmill pink CPUE was slightly above average for the week; however, inclement weather didn't allow for the full seven sets to be completed for the week and may not be indicative of actual abundance in the area. Chum salmon abundance based on test fishing continues to show mixed trends with Kingsmill being above average and Point Gardner being well below average. 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. The first sex ratios taken at Point Gardner showed the percentage of male pink salmon is near average and chum salmon male percentages are below average, which would indicate that pink salmon have average run

timing and chum salmon are slightly early. 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 near the recent 10-year average along the Kingsmill shoreline indicating normal run timing.

Average Weights:

- Point Gardner: pink salmon: 3.9; chum salmon: 8.5.
- Kingsmill: pink salmon: 3.3; chum salmon: 7.6 pounds.

Next Test Fisheries: Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries are scheduled for Monday, July 16.

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