



Advisory Announcement

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2020 POINT GARDNER AND KINGSMILL TEST FISHERIES UPDATE # 2

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 26 (June 21–27). However, the test fishery start has been delayed one week for the 2020 season and began statistical week 27 (June 28–July 4). 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 occurs one day per week for four weeks starting in statistical week 27 (June 28–July 4). 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 the Point Gardner test fisheries and the *F/V Empress* is conducting the Kingsmill test fisheries.

Point Gardner: The second test fishery was conducted on Monday, July 6 (statistical week 28). All seven scheduled sets were completed. Pink and chum salmon harvests were well below average. Male sex ratios for pink salmon were above average. There was no data for chum male sex ratios.

Kingsmill: The first test fishery was conducted on Saturday, July 4 (statistical week 27). All seven scheduled sets were completed. Pink and chum salmon harvests were below average. Male sex ratios were above average. There was no data for chum male sex ratios.

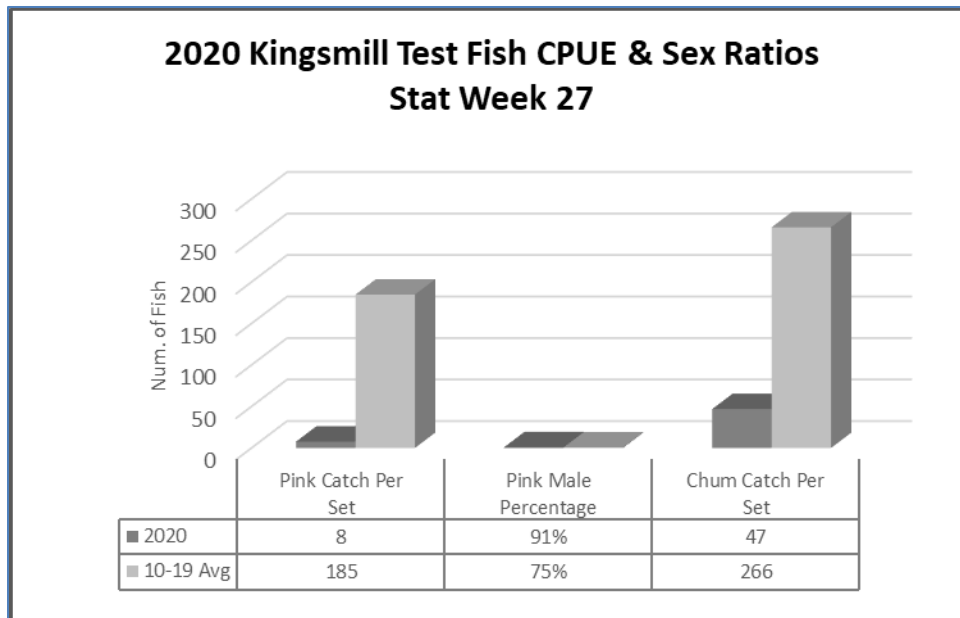
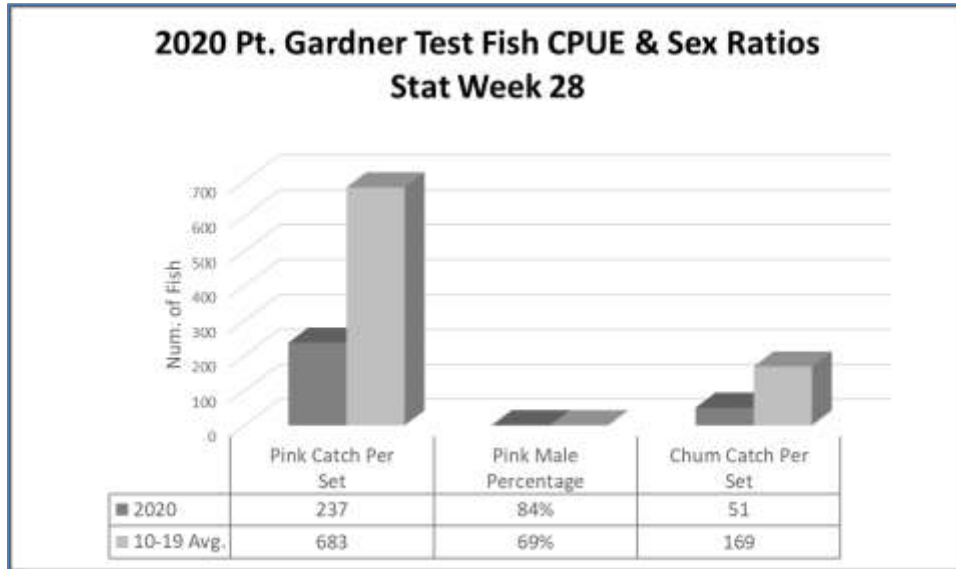
Run Strength: Based on the available data, pink and chum salmon abundance in Frederick Sound remains below average for the time of year. However, it is difficult to objectively assess run strength given the limitations of available data. Run strength for both pink and chum salmon will become more apparent as more test fishery data is collected.

Sex Ratio Sampling: Sex ratio sampling is used as a tool in determining run timing. Numbers of males are higher during the beginning of the run and females are more numerous during the latter part of the run. Comparing this year's sex ratios to the historical average provides a comparison of annual run timing to previous years. The male percent sex ratio is above average in the Kingsmill test fishery and remains above average for the Pt. Gardner test fishery. This may be indicative of a later run season.

Average Weights:

-Point Gardner: pink salmon: 4.5 pounds

Next Test Fisheries: The next Kingsmill test fishery is expected to occur Friday, July 10. The next Point Gardner test fishery is expected to occur Monday, July 13.



*No data available on chum male percentage.

Under Alaska’s Health Mandates 10, 17, and 18, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska’s Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates. COVID-19 Health Mandates may be found here: <https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid19-healthmandates/>

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

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