



Advisory Announcement

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2020 POINT GARDNER AND KINGSMILL TEST FISHERIES UPDATE # 3

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 was 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. Note: all data is compared to the most recent 10-year average (2010-2019).

Point Gardner: The third test fishery was conducted on Monday, July 13 (statistical week 29). All seven scheduled sets were completed. Pink salmon catches were slightly below average and chum salmon catches were well below average (Table 1). Male sex ratios for pink salmon were above average and chum salmon sex ratios were average.

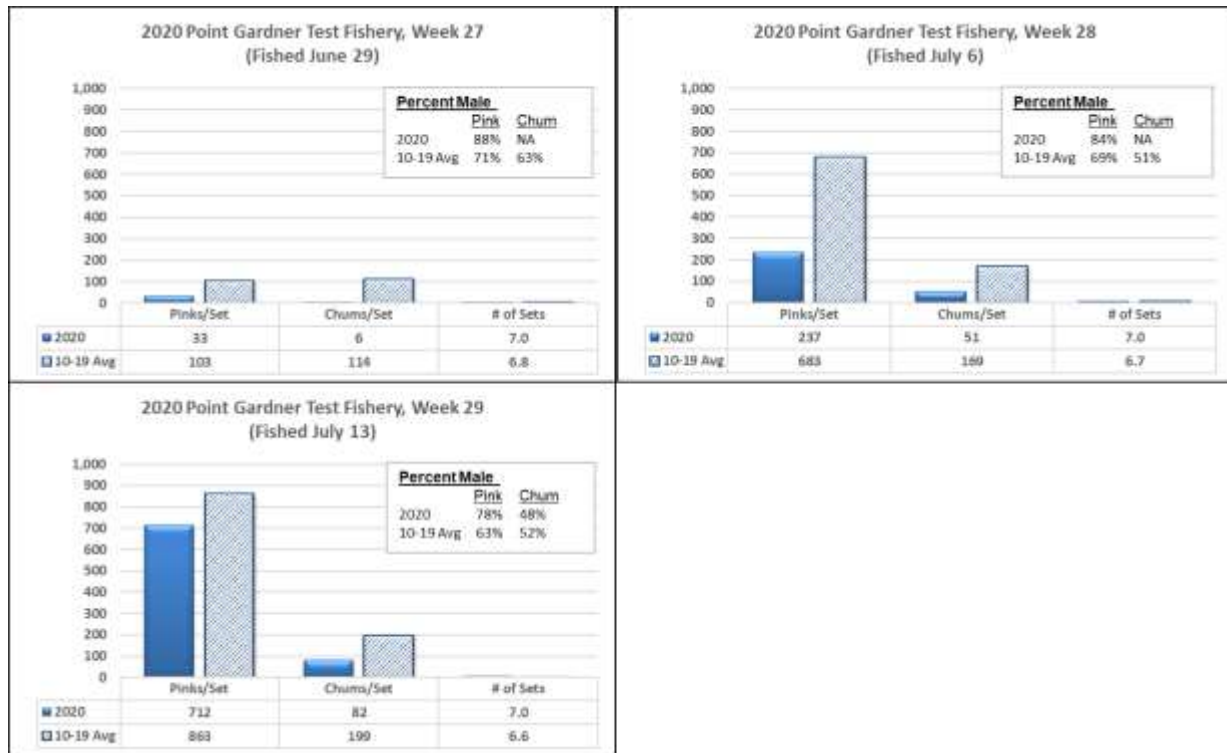
Kingsmill: The second test fishery was conducted on Friday, July 10 (statistical week 28). All seven scheduled sets were completed. Pink and chum salmon catches were below average (Table 2). Male pink and chum salmon sex ratios were average.

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.

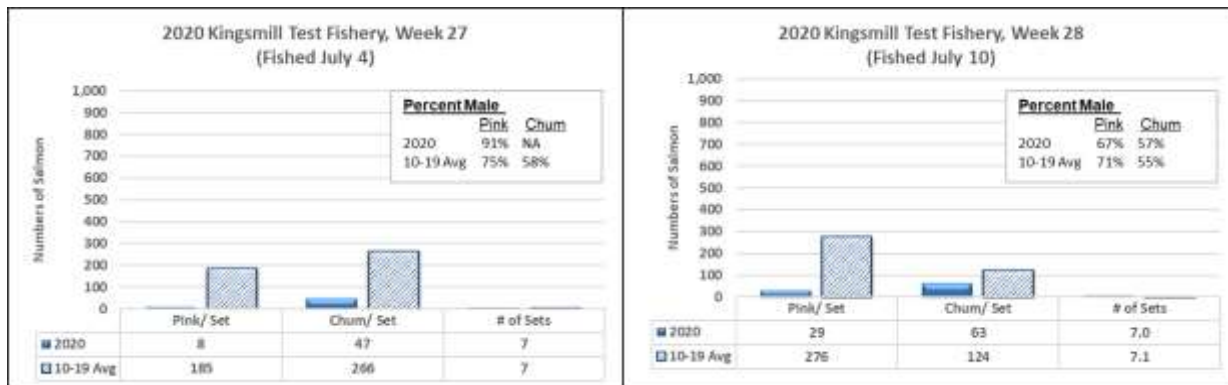
Sex Ratio Sampling: Sex ratio sampling is used as a tool in determining run timing. Numbers of males are higher during the beginning of the run and females are more numerous during the latter part of the run. Comparing this year's sex ratios to the historical average provides a comparison of annual run timing to previous years. The pink male percent sex ratio continues to be above average in both the Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries. This may be indicative that the 2020 run is still developing. Limited data is available on chum sex ratios for both Point Gardner and Kingsmill but numbers appear to be average.

Next Test Fisheries: The next Kingsmill test fishery is expected to occur Friday, July 17. The next Point Gardner test fishery is expected to occur Monday, July 20.

2020 Point Gardner Test Fishery Results (Table 1)



2020 Kingsmill Test Fishery Results (Table 2)



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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