

*Submitted by Eric Jameson*

- Visual confirmation that large kings are not harvested in the commercial set net fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet, during times of low king salmon abundance, when conservation measures are required to meet the minimum king salmon escapement for both the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers, in the last few years.
- However, it should be noted that the Kasilof River does not have an escapement goal for late-run Kasilof kings, and the east side set net fishery is the primary harvester (75%) of late-run Kasilof king salmon. During times of historic low abundance of major stocks of king salmon in Upper Cook Inlet, the Sustainable Salmon Policy directs fishery management to manage conservatively when in-season data is lacking. The last escapement estimate for Late-run Kasilof kings is from 2005, prior to this most period of historic low abundance of king salmon in Cook Inlet and elsewhere in Alaska.
- Visual confirmation that paired restrictions between sport anglers and commercial set netters are an unfair sharing of the burden of conservation for user group that obviously does not harvest large king salmon bound for either the Kenai or Kasilof Rivers.
- Visual confirmation that the maximum set gillnet mesh size of 6" effectively prevents the harvest of large king salmon in the Upper Cook Inlet commercial set net fishery, during these past few years of historic low abundance of king salmon returning to the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers.
- Visual confirmation that during times of historic low abundance of Cook Inlet king salmon, it is unfair to expect fisheries that do not harvest large king salmon to share in the burden of king salmon conservation measures.
- The following are publically available photos of the "small" king salmon harvested in the East Side Net Fishery during the past three years of paired restrictions between in-river sport anglers and the commercial set netters.







