

Hello,

My name is Doug Blossom. I am a lifelong east side setnetter (Ninilchik Beach), and also a 30 year charter captain operating off Deep Creek in Ninilchik. I would like to bring to your attention that the Upper Cook Inlet drift fishery catches a lot more kings than they are wanting known. Last year the F/V Rip Runner posted an Ad on Facebook (the Peninsula Man Stuff page), selling fish caught in Cook Inlet and said in the Ad that other species were available "including Kings" along with a picture of a King Salmon on their deck.

In addition, the ADF&G test boat that gives the index red salmon numbers used to publish 8-9 kings caught in their test fishery, and then stopped reporting king numbers a number of years ago. Plus, this past summer the drift fishers recorded nearly 300 kings caught and over 60 of those being large kings.

As a long time charter guide, last year we were closed from trolling north of Bluff Point after May 15. Our setnet fishery was closed entirely, which has never happened in my entire life commercial fishing (3rd generation). The personal use fisheries were closed to Kings on many rivers (Kasilof, Kenai, Susitna), but yet the Drift fleet was allowed to fish 3-5 days per week all the while catching King Salmon (both reported and unreported). I think there is plenty of evidence to show they catch Kings too. If ALL these groups are regulated into closure or restricted because of King conservation, then Drift fishermen should share the burden as well. I appreciate your time, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Doug M. Blossom

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