

Mike Ricketts

Mike Ricketts is the owner and captain of the F/V Sea Hawk in Monterey, CA. For more than 45 years, he has traversed the central California coast fishing for Chinook salmon, Dungeness crab, Albacore, and rockfish.

Ricketts has dedicated much of his adult life to salmon conservation efforts and to promoting commercial fishing. As such, he is a respected leader in the industry. He currently serves as the Chair of the Commercial Trollers Salmon Stamp Advisory Committee, where he plays an instrumental role in ensuring that funds raised through the Salmon Stamp Program are fully accounted for and put to the best possible use. In addition, Ricketts is the President of the Monterey Commercial Fishermen's Association and serves as a board member of the Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries and the Pacific Federation of Commercial Fishermen.

Mike Ricketts – high boat, as told by Jimmy Anderson

I just wanted to tell a story about Mike Ricketts. A number of years ago, we had a California Salmon Season that had a closure after the beginning of the season. The first day that the season re-opened, we all went fishing.

John Szostak (shaw-stack) another long time Salmon Stamp Committee member, gave Mike a phone call around 9am to see how Mike was doing. A thing that fishermen will do when they call, and John did ask, "Hay Mike did you catch 100 fish yet?" Mike answered, YES!

John asked a couple more questions to see if Mike was just kidding, When John was confident that Mike was Not kidding, John said he would check up with Mike a little later in the day. John was fishing outside Half Moon Bay and Mike was fishing down in Monterey Bay. John thought about something that fishermen say when fishing in Monterey Bay. We call it "Half Day in the Bay"! The wind usually starts to blow in the afternoon, or the fish Stop Biting.

Around noon John called to check up, Hey Mike do you have 200 fish? Mike answered, YES! John had been doing OK fishing off Half Moon Bay, but after that phone call, he stacked the gear and started running south to Monterey Bay.

It took John until around 6pm to get off the Board Walk at Santa Cruz. About that time they talked once again on the phone, John asked, How did you do? Mike answered, he caught 430 King Salmon for the Day.

That truly puts Mike Ricketts way High on the list for, "How Many King Salmon Have You Caught In A Day"?