

A Call to Protect Bristol Bay

It is time to protect Bristol Bay once and for all.

Bristol Bay, Alaska is home to the world's largest wild sockeye salmon run. Each year, tens of millions of returning wild salmon sustain local communities and Alaska Native Tribes, generate \$1.5 billion in annual economic activity, and provide 14,000 full-time jobs.

For more than 15 years, foreign-owned mining companies have sought to develop a massive open-pit mine that puts all of this at risk. Public outrage over well-documented scandals that came to light during the final stages of the permitting process spurred our elected leaders to move forward and publicly express strong opposition to Pebble Mine.

But now, after these revelations that Pebble Mine executives lied, and the permitting process is at a close, these open-ended admonishments are not enough.

Alaska Native Tribes, commercial and sport fishermen, hunters, wildlife viewers, and millions of Americans from across the political spectrum have come together to send a message to our political leaders: the waters of Bristol Bay are simply too precious to risk with large-scale hard rock mining.

A Call for Permanent Protection

In the name of our communities, our businesses, our children, and generations to come, we call on our elected leaders to permanently protect Bristol Bay's waters from the threat of the Pebble Mine and projects like it, now.

The Call for Bristol Bay includes two important steps:

1. The EPA Must Immediately Veto Pebble Mine

Now is the time for the Environmental Protection Agency to use section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act to veto the Pebble Mine. No other approach can create the immediate safety net for those who depend on Bristol Bay. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Environmental Protection Agency have concluded that Pebble Mine will damage Bristol Bay forever. The EPA must start its veto process immediately.

2. Congress Must Act to Establish the Jay and Bella Hammond Bristol Bay National Fisheries Area

It is time for our elected leaders to introduce and pass the Jay and Bella Hammond National Fisheries Area Act that will protect the waters of Bristol Bay, Alaska in perpetuity.

This legislation should establish a National Fisheries Area to provide federal protection for the watersheds of Bristol Bay, Alaska. It must permanently ban any toxic mine waste from the proposed Pebble Mine and large scale projects like it that would harm Bristol Bay rivers, lakes and wetlands.

Act Now for the Future

It is time to permanently protect Bristol Bay – to ensure that it will continue to provide for current and future generations of Alaska Native people and supply healthy, sustainable food to people around the nation and around the world.

Join us in signing onto the call for action now to protect Bristol Bay permanently and forever.