



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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May 25, 2021

Acting Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
Regional Administrator's Office, RA-140  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101

Michael Regan, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear EPA Administrator,

We are writing on behalf of the United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA), Alaska's commercial fishing industry and the thousands of Alaskans who depend on Alaska's sustainable salmon fisheries to respectfully request that the EPA invoke its powers under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act to secure permanent protections for the Bristol Bay watershed from the development of large-scale mining and mining discharge, including Pebble Mine.

UFA has worked for over a decade with Bristol Bay Tribes, local residents, businesses, and conservation groups to protect Bristol Bay's thriving salmon fishery from threats posed by potential large-scale mines, such as Pebble Mine.

The Bristol Bay salmon fishery generates approximately \$2 billion in annual economic activity and employs more than 15,000 people. Additionally, there is a public health interest in conserving the salmon that return to Bristol Bay which account for over 50% of the world supply of sockeye salmon each year and is known to be amongst the most beneficial protein sources.

Despite the consistent findings by both the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers that the Pebble Mine would pose unacceptable adverse impacts to the Bristol Bay watershed and fisheries, the Bristol Bay region remains vulnerable to Pebble Mine, other large-scale mining operations, and mining discharge. Without 404(c) protections in place, Bristol Bay is at risk and Bristol Bay's fishermen cannot rest.

UFA asks EPA join with us, Bristol Bay Tribes, and numerous other organizations to help preserve the pristine quality of Bristol Bay's delicate ecosystem, which directly supports America's seafood supply and provides such a strong renewable economic engine for Alaskans.

The EPA has an opportunity to act under Section 404(c) in a manner that would lay the foundation for permanent protections for Bristol Bay and end the uncertainty that, for far too long, has clouded the future of Alaska's fishing industry, its citizens and all Americans who seek to conserve and benefit from the

Bristol Bay salmon fishery. Please join with us to ensure that salmon can continue to thrive and provide our fellow Americans and the world with renewable, nutritious, wild seafood and support our commercial fishing families for generations to come.

CC:

Secretary, Department of Interior  
Secretary, Department of Commerce  
President's Council on Environmental Quality  
Acting Under Secretary of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Director, Bureau of Land Management  
Director, National Park Service  
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator from Alaska  
Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senator from Alaska  
Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senator from Washington  
Patty Murray, U.S. Senator from Washington  
Jared Huffman, U.S. Representative from California

Regards,



Matt Alward  
President



Frances H. Leach  
Executive Director

#### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Scallop Association • Alaska Trollers Association  
Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association • Area M Seiners Association • At-sea Processors Association • Bristol Bay Fishermen's Association  
Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association • Bristol Bay Reserve • Cape Barnabas, Inc. • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen  
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United • Douglas Island Pink and Chum • Freezer Longline Coalition • Fishing Vessel  
Owners Assn Groundfish Forum • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association • Kodiak Crab Alliance Cooperative • Kodiak Regional Aquaculture  
Association • Kodiak Seiners Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • Northwest  
Setnetters Association • Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Purse Seine Vessel Owner  
Association • Seafood Producers Cooperative • Southeast Alaska Herring Conservation Alliance • Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance • Southeast  
Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners  
Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • United Catcher Boats • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters  
Valdez Fisheries Development Association