

September 18, 2014

Water Docket # EPA-R10-OW-2014-0505  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Mail Code: 2822T  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

I am writing in support of your agency's recent decision to move forward with a 404(c) determination aimed to protect Bristol Bay, Alaska and its valuable salmon industry. Thank you for the time you took to review this issue through the *Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment*. Finalizing this determination is a necessary step to bestow on Bristol Bay the protection it needs from the type of large-scale developments that can devastate fisheries, either through catastrophic events or chronic habitat degradation over time.

Acme Smoked Fish is the oldest fish smokery in the country. Based in Brooklyn, New York, we have been involved with Bristol Bay sockeye and king salmon for over sixty years. I myself have spent ten salmon seasons procuring high quality salmon in Bristol Bay. Bristol Bay smoked salmon is a popular item and the market for smoked sockeye is expanding on our menu across the country. We are also introducing Bristol Bay sockeye on our export menu.

Bristol Bay sockeye is a resource that we cannot afford to put at risk. This is a resource that provides food for millions, and jobs for 14,000. It is an economic driver whose impacts extend around the country and the world. Unlike the minerals buried at the Pebble Deposit, the fish that support this thriving economy are 100% renewable. It is too risky to allow industrial mining at the top of the watersheds that Bristol Bay salmon depend on to spawn. We should not take for granted a fishery that has proven itself for 120 years.

We support the EPA's proposed determination and believe the agency is more than justified in its decision to restrict dredge and fill material at the Pebble deposit. Furthermore, in light of the value of the Bristol Bay fishery, the sensitivity of its habitat, and the impossibility of guaranteeing against a catastrophic accident in open-pit mining, it is clear that large-scale mining activity poses unacceptable risks to the Bristol Bay watershed and should be prohibited.

Please promptly issue a final 404(c) determination that will guarantee that large-scale mining will not have adverse impacts on the world's largest sockeye salmon fishery and the jobs and communities that it sustains.

Sincerely,



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