



ALASKA GENERAL SEAFOODS

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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.


I am writing on behalf of Alaska General Seafoods, a seafood processing company with operations in Bristol Bay and Ketchikan Alaska. We directly employ approximately nine hundred people statewide, six hundred of whom work in our Bristol Bay salmon operations. More than three hundred Bristol Bay salmon driftnet and setnet fishermen as well as their deckands/crews rely on our company annually to buy their salmon catch and service their fishing operational needs. It is, without question, the pristine environment in the Bristol Bay watershed that is responsible for the health and abundance of this magnificent natural resource that our company, our industry and local people rely on for our livelihood, success and sustenance.

The Bristol Bay salmon fishery is acknowledged across the world as a premier example of sustainable fisheries management. Mining like the proposed Pebble Mine has no place in this salmon watershed.



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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon Lindquist", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gordon Lindquist

Vice President

Alaska General Seafoods

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