



# Eating with the Ecosystem

A place-based approach to sustainable seafood

9/15/2014

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:

Thank you for the time that your agency took to complete a rigorous assessment of the potential ecological impacts of large-scale mining in Bristol Bay, and for taking action based on your conclusion that such forms of mining would have serious, irreversible adverse impacts on the Bristol Bay region's outstanding salmon resource. We applaud your draft restrictions on mining at the Pebble Deposit and urge you to move forward with a final determination as soon as possible

Eating with the Ecosystem is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to designing a place-based approach to sustainable seafood that extrapolates the principles of ecosystem-based fisheries management to the market sphere. A core component of our mission is to highlight the role of habitat in supporting thriving fish populations and fisheries. Nowhere is this link clearer than in Bristol Bay: if anything were to degrade the region's pristine habitat, there is no doubt in our minds that the unparalleled bounty of its fish and the vibrant fishery that depends on them would soon suffer as a result.

With the recent Mt. Polley tailings dam collapse, we have sadly seen the result of allowing open-pit copper and gold mining within essential salmon habitat, with no way to guarantee against unplanned outcomes.

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,

Sarah Schumann  
President  
Eating with the Ecosystem  
Warren, Rhode Island