



SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION, INC.

ALABAMA • FLORIDA • GEORGIA • MISSISSIPPI • NORTH CAROLINA • SOUTH CAROLINA



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August 28, 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:

Southeastern Fisheries Association supports EPA's recent decision to move forward with a 404(c) determination 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.

Southeastern Fisheries Association is a 501 C 6 non-profit fisheries association founded in 1952. We are composed of all segments of the fishing industry from the water to the waiter. We represent fishermen, dealers, processors, distributors in all fisheries on the southeastern United States. We also support our brother and sister fishermen throughout the country when they are in harm's way like the good folks in Bristol Bay. We [provide food and jobs in a sustainable manner. Our carbon footprint is small in the scheme of things and we work to reduce it even further by technology and fishing practices. We are the original fisheries stewards as our livelihoods depend on keeping the resources healthy and sustainable

As members of the U.S. commercial fishing and seafood industries, we know what happens when fisheries and watersheds are not cared for. We have watched the decline of too many fisheries due to loss of habitat and we have seen that even billions of dollars cannot fully restore most of those fisheries following inappropriate development.

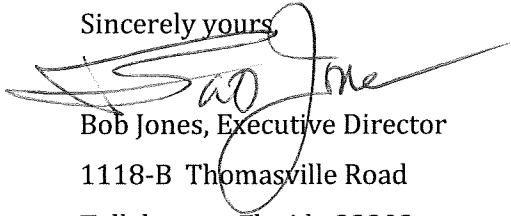
Furthermore, with the recent Mt. Polley tailings dam collapse, we have sadly seen the result of allowing open-pit copper and gold mining within essential salmon habitat, with no way to guarantee against unplanned outcomes. This very mine has been held up as an example of modern mining practices, co-existing with another great wild fishery. Sadly, it is the fishermen and communities downstream who will be left to carry the burden of rebuilding something that never should have been put at risk.

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.

Serving the Southeastern Seafood Industry proudly since 1952

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 yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Jones", written over the typed name and address.

Bob Jones, Executive Director

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