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**From:** Commercial Fishermen for Bristol Bay

**Subject:** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Bristol Bay Commercial Fishermen ask Congress to listen to facts, not Pebble-funded propaganda

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## **Bristol Bay Commercial Fishermen ask Congress to listen to facts, not Pebble Limited Partnership-funded propaganda campaign**

*The House Science, Space and Technology committee hearing's review of the EPA process distracts from the mining company's failure to file for permits in Bristol Bay, Alaska.*

JUNEAU, AK — Commercial Fishermen for Bristol Bay will urge members of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology during a Thursday morning hearing to stick to the facts when it comes to the proposed Pebble Mine and its potential negative impacts on the world's greatest wild sockeye salmon fishery.

A Pebble Partnership-sponsored report from the Cohen group, which serves as the centerpiece of the hearing, delved into the fairness of the EPA's 404c process to evaluate the potential impacts of the colossal gold and copper mine on Bristol Bay and its fisheries.

In two rounds of EPA public process, roughly 20,000 Alaskans weighed in to support the proposal to protect fish and fishing. In the final tally, over 99 percent of the 670,000-plus comments were in favor of protections and opposed to the development of Pebble Mine.

“It would be a far greater service to the public if the Congress would focus on the science, which shows clearly that construction of one of the world's largest open pit gold and copper mines at the headwaters of Bristol Bay could pose a clear risk to Bristol Bay's incredible fishery,” said Bristol Bay fisherman and CFBB member Melanie Brown.

Since late in 2004, Pebble has been openly talking about applying for permits, including on several occasions promising a mine plan was mere months away. Now, more than ten years later, Alaskans are still waiting.

“What's unfair is the stress and uncertainty that we live with year after year, a decade of false statements and unfulfilled promises from Pebble,” said Brown. “I'm hopeful that in the near future the Congress and the courts will step aside and let the EPA finish the job that so many of us are counting them to do and do right.”

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