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**From:** Commercial Fishermen for Bristol Bay

**Subject:** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Bristol Bay fishermen pleased that inquiry affirms EPA conducted a fair review of Bristol Bay



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Bristol Bay fishermen pleased that inquiry affirms Environmental Protection Agency conducted a fair and transparent review of Bristol Bay**

*Bristol Bay commercial fishermen welcome report by Inspector General, which finds no bias in EPA conduct and solidifies conclusion that proposed Pebble mine would damage fishery*

NAKNEK, AK – Since 2011, the Pebble Partnership has continuously accused the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of bias and wrongdoing in their review of the Pebble mine. Today, however, the Office of Inspector General released a report that clears the EPA of allegations of biased conduct during the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment process.

“Bristol Bay Commercial Fishermen are pleased, but hardly surprised to see the EPA was cleared of any allegations of bias. From the beginning, we knew that their process to review risks posed to our thriving fishery by Pebble mine was transparent and extremely thorough. In the end, the agency found that that the Pebble mine would pose extreme risk to our sustainable fishery, putting 14,000 fish-based jobs at risk. Today’s report confirms that EPA’s decision is based on sound science and fact, not opinion. Given today’s news, we hope to see proposed protections move forward so that we may continue sharing wild Bristol Bay sockeye with the world for many years to come.”

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*Commercial Fishermen for Bristol Bay is a coalition of over 100 fishing organizations and thousands of individual fishermen working to protect the 14,000 jobs, more than \$500 million in annual income, and over half the world’s wild sockeye salmon provided by Bristol Bay’s 125 year sustainable fishery. Learn more at [fishermenforbristolbay.org](http://fishermenforbristolbay.org).*

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