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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Commercial fishermen call for action from Alaska's leaders as Pebble comment period comes to an end**

ANCHORAGE, AK - Another record fishing season is underway in Bristol Bay, with growing market demand for Bristol Bay sockeye salmon due to exceptionally low sockeye returns throughout the rest of the state. Meanwhile, the Army Corps of Engineers is pushing the Pebble Limited Partnership's federal permit application forward despite missing information, repeated concerns from Bristol Bay stakeholders, and Pebble's financial instability. The Army Corps will end its scoping comment period for Pebble's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on June 29th.

"Going into this comment period, Alaskans were promised a rigorous and transparent process. What we have seen thus far from the Army Corps of Engineers is anything but that; it is unfair, biased, and lacks any real accountability. The Corps is fast-tracking Pebble's permit application despite missing baseline data, no economic feasibility study, and Pebble's continually changing mine plans," said Chip Treinen, a Bristol Bay fisherman and CFBB representative.

"There is little reason to believe that our hundreds of thousands of comments will deter the Corps from their ultimate goal of seeing this project permitted. Bristol Bay fishermen and others deserve a fair airing of the issues. It is time for Alaska's leaders to step in and suspend Pebble's application until a fair and robust process can be undertaken."

CFBB delivered a similar request to Alaska's Governor Walker and Congressional Delegation in a letter on June 7th, stating "If the Pebble Partnership is serious about building the Pebble Mine in a way that does not impact Bristol Bay's world-class fisheries,

then they will appreciate the need for a thorough, transparent, science-based permitting process - however long that takes.”

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*Commercial Fishermen for Bristol Bay is a coalition of over 100 fishing organizations and thousands of individual fishermen around the country 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 sustainable fishery.*

*Learn more at [fishermenforbristolbay.org](http://fishermenforbristolbay.org).*