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Commercial fishermen disappointed with Army Corps' rushed EIS scoping report; sets dangerous precedent for Pebble permitting process

Dillingham, AK -- On Friday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released its final Scoping Report for the proposed Pebble Mine project in Bristol Bay where more than 60 million sockeye salmon returned this summer. The scoping report, which is supposed to identify the issues that the Army Corps will consider and address in a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), is the first major step in Pebble's federal permitting process.

"Based on the Army Corps' rushed scoping report, it's abundantly clear that this Administration has no interest in conducting an honest review of the impacts that the Pebble Mine would have on Bristol Bay's salmon and the people who depend on it. If they did, then they would not have produced such a cursory report that omits thousands of comments, including that of expert scientists and commercial fishermen," said Mike Friccero, representative for the Commercial Fishermen for Bristol Bay coalition. "Our nation's largest and most valuable wild salmon fishery is on the line here. The Army Corps' process will ultimately decide whether or not I and 14,000 other Americans will lose our jobs fishing in Bristol Bay."

"Going into this process, we were promised a rigorous, science-based review of Pebble's application. We look to Alaska's Senator Murkowski to halt this out-of-control process until the Army Corps can deliver on that promise. Waiting for the Army Corps to release their final Record of Decision is unacceptable. Doing so jeopardizes thousands of Alaska jobs, millions in renewable revenue, and is a waste of taxpayer dollars and limited state agency resources."

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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.