

# COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN FOR BRISTOL BAY

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## **New secret Pebble Tapes reveal that Alaskans will foot the bill to build Pebble Mine Bristol Bay fishermen call for Alaska's Senators to put an immediate stop to Pebble's corrupted permitting process**

Dillingham, AK - Days before the election, two new "[Pebble Tapes](#)" were released today by the Environmental Investigation Agency. The tapes share extensive details from Canadian Northern Dynasty Minerals CEO, Ron Thiessen, about the Pebble Limited Partnership's political manipulations at the state and federal levels to advance its highly controversial Pebble Mine project in Bristol Bay.

"These newest Pebble Tapes deepen our disgust and distrust of the Pebble Limited Partnership. Pebble is corrupt and crooked to its core," said Commercial Fishermen for Bristol Bay Executive Director, Katherine Carscallen. "With Ron Thiessen at the helm, Pebble's entire federal permitting process is built on lies and deceit, and yet Pebble's federal permit could be approved in just a matter of weeks. The time is now for Senators Murkowski and Sullivan to step in and support immediate action that restores public confidence in our federal permitting system and provides full, long-term protection for Bristol Bay through the Clean Water Act's science-based 404(c) process. If there was ever a time to initiate that process, that time is now."

"While we appreciate that Alaska Senators Sullivan and Murkowski have recently come out in strong opposition to the Pebble Mine, according to what Thiessen has said in these tapes, opposition to the mine alone without action from Alaska's Senators to protect our water doesn't actually stop Pebble." said Holly Wysocki, lifelong Bristol Bay resident and set net fisherman. "These newest tapes just reaffirm why Alaskans cannot rest or assume that Pebble is dead until the Pebble permitting process is fully stopped and long-lasting protection for Bristol Bay is enacted."

In the newly released tapes, Thiessen explains why the Army Corps denying Pebble's permit is an unlikely and complicated scenario. He also brags, in reference to statements of opposition to the mine made during election season that "once it's over, everybody forgets what everybody promised to do. You aren't held to your promises."

"What's most disappointing to me is that Alaska's own governor appears willing to jeopardize our state's most valuable salmon fishery that employs over 14,000 people each year while also committing Alaskans to pay \$1.5 billion for a mine that the majority of Alaskans don't even want," said 30-year veteran fisherman Mike Friccero. "The Pebble Tapes only confirm what we've seen for

years now — Governor Dunleavy using his position to benefit a Canadian mining company and going outside of the public process to advocate for the Pebble Partnership. We have voiced our concern as Governor Dunleavy appointed Pebble allies to key state permitting and fisheries positions, forwarded ghostwritten letters from Pebble to federal agencies and officials, and now most recently he evangelizes the mine as the solution to systemic issues in rural Alaska. The list goes on, and his collusion with the Pebble Partnership’s crooked executives needs to stop.”

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*Commercial Fishermen for Bristol Bay is a national coalition of fishermen working to protect Bristol Bay, Alaska and the 14,000 jobs, \$500 million in annual income, and \$1.5 billion in economic activity that Bristol Bay’s wild salmon provide.*