

# COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN FOR BRISTOL BAY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Commercial fishermen join in the “Call to Protect Bristol Bay”**

*Alaska’s fishermen echo Bristol Bay tribes and call on lawmakers to establish lasting protections for Bristol Bay*

**Dillingham, Alaska** - Today, Alaska’s fishermen voiced their support for a [“Call to Protect Bristol Bay,”](#) a protection plan authored and released by Bristol Bay Native Association, Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation and United Tribes of Bristol Bay. The "Call to Protect Bristol Bay" asks elected officials, civic leaders and the public, to support permanent protections for Bristol Bay. The call includes two steps: asking the Environmental Protection Agency to use section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act to veto the Pebble Mine, and secondly asking Congress to establish the Jay and Bella Hammond Bristol Bay National Fisheries Area which would permanently establish federal protections for Bristol Bay’s headwaters, banning any toxic mine waste from large-scale mining projects that would harm Bristol Bay’s sensitive and irreplaceable rivers, lakes and wetlands.

“Now that the Army Corps has denied Pebble’s permit, it is time to take the next step and permanently protect the true economic driver of the Bristol Bay region - its salmon - and create certainty for both its residents and its 14,000 fishermen and seafood industry workers,” said Commercial Fishermen for Bristol Bay Director Katherine Carscallen. “The protections outlined in the “Call to Protect Bristol Bay” would not only drive a final nail in the Pebble Mine’s coffin, they would also give Bristol Bay’s fishermen and residents the certainty and security we’ve been seeking for years. Bristol Bay’s fishermen look forward to working with the incoming Biden administration and our representatives in Washington D.C. to ensure that Bristol Bay’s salmon fishery and way of life are never again imperiled by the Pebble Mine,”

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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.