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May 01, 2024

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Commercial Fishermen welcome Bristol Bay Protection Act

The Bill, introduced by congresswoman Mary Peltola would Codify EPA's Decision to Protect the Bristol Bay from the threat of the Pebble Mine

(Dillingham, Alaska) —Today, Congresswoman Mary Peltola (D-AK) introduced the Bristol Bay Protection Act, which if passed would codify the [404\(c\) Clean Water Act final determination](#) issued last year by the Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA) ending the threat of the proposed Pebble Mine.

EPA's finding that development of the Pebble Mine would result in unacceptable and adverse impacts to Bristol Bay's aquatic resources confirmed what Bristol Bay communities, fishermen and millions of Americans have contended for decades. While the EPA's 404(c) is an incredibly durable protection, Bristol Bay is too important to leave permanent protections to the will of future administrations or court decisions. This bill will ensure that the 404(c) action protecting Bristol Bay remains in place into perpetuity.

"We welcome Congresswoman Mary Peltola's bill as an important step to advance permanent protections for this irreplaceable fishery after millions of Americans have weighed in to support permanent protections for Bristol Bay," said Lilani Dunn, Executive Director of the Bristol Bay Seafood Development Association. "We are encouraged that Congress has the opportunity to ensure the world's greatest wild salmon resource is finally protected fully from the threat of the Pebble Mine."

"We are thankful that Congresswoman Peltola recognizes the need for legislation to ensure that protections for Bristol Bay are made permanent," said Nels Ure, Communications Director of Commercial Fishermen for Bristol Bay. "Life in Bristol Bay is tied to healthy land and waters and the people and fishermen whose livelihoods depend on healthy salmon runs may finally have assurance that the Pebble Mine will not destroy this irreplaceable way of life and over half the world's wild sockeye supply"

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Commercial Fishermen for Bristol Bay is a national coalition of fishermen working to protect Bristol Bay, Alaska and the 15,000 jobs, \$2.2 billion in economic activity, and generational fishery that Bristol Bay's wild salmon provide.

Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association represents the economic interests of over 8,000 commercial Bristol Bay salmon fishermen who hail from Alaska and nearly every other U.S. state.