

# The Pebble Mine: A Looming Threat to Bristol Bay

Over the past decade, Pebble has kept Bristol Bay businesses, wild salmon and jobs in limbo. With the change in federal Administration in 2017, the Pebble Partnership submitted an application to develop a massive open-pit mine in the headwaters of Bristol Bay, Alaska's world-class salmon rivers. Review of their plans confirms the Pebble Mine would irrevocably damage Bristol Bay's salmon runs, clean water, and wild landscape.

**2.5 Million** number of Americans who have expressed support for protecting Bristol Bay using 404(c)

**2001** Northern Dynasty Minerals acquires leases from Teck Cominco (which Cominco held since 1988)

**2006** Northern Dynasty files preliminary water rights applications to use 35 billion gallons of water a year from three rivers.<sup>2</sup>

**2007** Pebble Partnership officially formed with Anglo American<sup>3</sup>

**2007** Pebble targets completion of a pre-feasibility study in December 2008, a feasibility study by 2011, and start of commercial production by 2015.<sup>1</sup>

**2008** Alaskans were assured that that "Pebble was on schedule to finalize a proposed development plan in 2009"... and apply for permits in early 2010<sup>5</sup>  
CEO of Anglo American Mining Company, says they won't go where they're not wanted.

**2010** Tribes, commercial fishermen, and many others file request to the EPA to initiate 404(c)

**2011** Northern Dynasty Minerals releases preliminary assessment showing the Pebble deposit contains nearly 11 billion tons of ore<sup>7</sup>

**2014** The EPA issues the 404(c) Proposed Determination, which if finalized, would restrict the amount of mine waste that could be disposed of in the Bristol Bay region.

**2013** Pebble fined for withdrawing water without a permit on 45 separate occasions.<sup>4</sup>

**2013** Anglo American withdraws from Pebble Partnership

**2015** Rio Tinto exits Pebble project, granting its shares to two state-based non profits.

**2017 May** Hours after a closed-door meeting between the new EPA Administrator and the CEO of Northern Dynasty, the EPA Administrator proposed to withdraw important protections for Bristol Bay salmon (the 2014 Proposed Determination).

**2017 Sept** Pebble unveils a new "smaller" mine plan to the public just one week after pitching the project to potential new investors as the "initial approach" in what could, "operate for generations."

**2017 Oct** EPA receives a record number of comments in support of keeping the proposed Clean Water Act protections for Bristol Bay.

**2018 Jan** U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt announced that he would not withdraw the 2014 Clean Water Act 404(c) Proposed Determination

**2018 Jan** AK Gov. Bill Walker states, "in the Bristol Bay region we should prioritize the resource that has sustained generations and must continue to do so in perpetuity."<sup>8</sup>

**2010** Tribes, commercial fishermen, and many others file request to the EPA to initiate 404(c)

**4** Number of major mining companies that have walked away from the project

**14,000** fish based jobs in region



annual revenue brought in by fish-based economy

**\$1.5 billion**

<sup>1</sup> [northerndynastyminerals.com/ndm/NewsReleases.asp?ReportID=595686](http://northerndynastyminerals.com/ndm/NewsReleases.asp?ReportID=595686)  
<sup>2</sup> [dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/largemine/pebble/water-right-apps/](http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/largemine/pebble/water-right-apps/)  
<sup>3</sup> [angloamerican.com/media/press-releases/2007/2007-08-01](http://angloamerican.com/media/press-releases/2007/2007-08-01)  
<sup>4</sup> [dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/largemine/pebble/water-settlement/index.cfm](http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/largemine/pebble/water-settlement/index.cfm)  
<sup>5</sup> [fastcompany.com/1042481/anglo-american%E2%80%99s-bristol-bay-controversy-wildlife-vs-mineral-riches](http://fastcompany.com/1042481/anglo-american%E2%80%99s-bristol-bay-controversy-wildlife-vs-mineral-riches)  
<sup>6</sup> <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=188476>  
<sup>7</sup> <https://www.northerndynastyminerals.com/news/news-releases/2011/northern-dynasty-receives-positive-preliminary-assessment-technical-report-for-globally-significant-pebble-copper-gold-molybdenu/>  
<sup>8</sup> <https://gov.alaska.gov/newsroom/2018/01/federal-regulators-respond-to-outcry-from-alaskans-concerned-about-mining-in-bristol-bay/>