



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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September 6, 2022

Casey Sixkiller
Regional Administrator, Region 10
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, WA 98101

Michael S. Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Docket: EPA-R10-OW-2022-0418

RE: Protections for Bristol Bay under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act

Dear Administrator Regan and Regional Administrator Sixkiller,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association representing 37 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state, and the federal fisheries off Alaska's coast. **UFA respectfully requests that the EPA work to finalize protections for the Bristol Bay watershed under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act by the end of 2022.**

The Bristol Bay salmon fishery generates approximately \$2 billion in annual economic activity and employs more than 15,000 people. Additionally, there is a public health interest in conserving the salmon that return to Bristol Bay which account for over 50% of the world supply of sockeye salmon each year and is known to be amongst the most beneficial protein sources.

UFA has worked for over a decade with Bristol Bay Tribes, local residents, businesses, and conservation groups to protect Bristol Bay's thriving salmon fishery from threats posed by potential large-scale mining and mining discharge, including the Pebble Mine.

The EPA has an opportunity to finalize action under Section 404(c) that would go a long way in the effort to secure comprehensive and permanent protections for Bristol Bay and end the uncertainty that, for far too long, has clouded the future of Alaska's fishing industry, the citizens of Bristol Bay, and of all Americans who seek to conserve and

benefit from the Bristol Bay salmon fishery. Please join with us to ensure that salmon can continue to thrive and provide our fellow Americans and the world with renewable, nutritious, wild seafood and support our commercial fishing families for generations to come.

Regards,



Matt Alward
President



Tracy Welch
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Scallop Association • Alaska Trollers Association
Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association • Area M Seiners Association • At-sea Processors Association • Bristol Bay Fishermen's Association
Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association • Bristol Bay Reserve • Cape Barnabas, Inc. • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United • Douglas Island Pink and Chum • Freezer Longline Coalition • Fishing Vessel
Owners Assn Groundfish Forum • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association • Kodiak Crab Alliance Cooperative • Kodiak Regional Aquaculture
Association • Kodiak Seiners Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • Northwest
Setnetters Association • Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Purse Seine Vessel Owner
Association • Seafood Producers Cooperative • Southeast Alaska Herring Conservation Alliance • Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance • Southeast
Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners
Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • United Catcher Boats • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters
Valdez Fisheries Development Association