

**POSITION ON THE PEBBLE MINE PROJECT**  
**Updated March 2018**

The Pacific Seafood Processors Association (PSPA) represents seafood processing companies operating throughout coastal Alaska. These companies have invested millions of dollars in seafood facilities in Alaska and annually provide markets to thousands of fishermen and jobs to thousands of processing workers. They generate significant economic benefits to communities and the state and supply high quality seafood products to consumers around the world. A number of our member companies have large salmon processing operations in Bristol Bay, some of which have been in operation for 100 years.

The viability of Alaska's seafood industry is based upon the productivity of Alaska's unspoiled waters. Those waters, and the fisheries that depend on them, have provided an economic base for much of Alaska, and premium seafood to the world, for over a century. If well-managed and protected, they will continue to do so in perpetuity.

Alaska's seafood industry has invested heavily over the past three decades in specifically marketing and distinguishing our products as wild, healthy, and coming from the most pristine waters on Earth. Thus, along with the actual purity and productivity of Alaska's waters, this public perception plays a critical role in the marketability and value of Alaska's seafood.

PSPA recognizes the importance of economic diversification and resource development in Alaska. The Association and its member companies are supportive of resource development projects when and where there is a reasonable level of certainty they can be developed, operated, and concluded without damage to Alaska's ecosystems, fishery resources, and a market that depends on the health benefits, purity, and wholesomeness of Alaska's seafood. It is critical that any potential shorter-term benefits from extraction of non-renewable resources be carefully weighed against any potential short and long-term negative impacts on perpetually renewable resources, such as fish and the waters and habitat upon which they depend.

Over the years, PSPA has carefully followed the progress of the Pebble project and considered available information about this and other large mine projects and the particular geographical, geological, ecological, hydrological, socio-economic, and cultural attributes of the region. We have also reviewed the analysis of the relationship between a mine such as Pebble and the Bristol Bay watershed to-date, which

concludes significant salmon habitat would be destroyed or degraded by the project, negatively impacting the productivity of fisheries in the region. As of January 2018, the current and former administrations have concluded that any mining projects in the region likely pose a risk to the abundant natural resources that exist there, and until we know the full extent of that risk, those natural resources and world-class fisheries deserve the utmost protection.

We have concluded that the Pebble project poses an unacceptably high risk of degrading important watersheds feeding the world's most productive sockeye salmon fishery. While we acknowledge the potential short-term economic benefits of this enormous project, we see no way that it can be developed, operated, and concluded without causing irreparable harm to the watersheds, ecosystems, fishery resources, businesses, people, and communities of the region. Furthermore, we know from past experience, that actual or perceived damage to the purity of the waters or fish of the Bristol Bay region would harm the marketability of Alaska salmon and other seafood species, even from other regions of the state.

PSPA is an industry trade association that has been in active existence since 1914. In all those years, the Association has not taken a position in opposition to any specific development project or category of projects of other natural resource industries. While after careful consideration, we are compelled to oppose development of the Pebble mine project due to its unique location, size, and potential harm, we look forward to continuing to work cooperatively with all Alaska industries on matters of mutual interest and to supporting projects that can ensure no negative impact on fishery resources or the marketability of Alaska seafood.

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