



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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March 8, 2010

Representative Bryce Edgmon, Chair
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Edgmon,

United Fishermen of Alaska supports the intent of SCR 6 and HCR 15 directing the Legislative Council to contract for an assessment of environmental and socio-economic risks of large-scale mineral extraction in the Bristol Bay area watershed. We believe that objective third party scientific review of this issue will arm the state with best possible information on which to base policy decisions regarding protection of Bristol Bay fisheries and essential fish habitat throughout the watershed. Bristol Bay is the most valuable salmon fishery in our state and in the world, and merits a study of the proposed project by a trusted, objective, third-party on the proposed project and the potential risks to fisheries, as well as the state's large-mine permitting process and its capacity to protect Bristol Bay fisheries resources. This will be an essential component for constructive dialogue and debate about the compatibility of the proposed Pebble mine and Bristol Bay's fishing industries.

United Fishermen of Alaska is the largest statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 37 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state and its offshore waters. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Vinsel
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Crab Coalition • Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association • Alaska Independent Tendermen's Association
Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Scallop Association • Alaska Trollers Association • Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association
Aleutian Pribilof Islands Community Development Association • Armstrong Keta • At-sea Processors Association • Bristol Bay Reserve
Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association • Cape Barnabas Inc. • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen • Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association
Cordova District Fishermen United • Crab Group of Independent Harvesters • Douglas Island Pink and Chum • Fishing Vessel Owners Association
Groundfish Forum • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association • Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association
Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation
Purse Seine Vessel Owner Association • Seafood Producers Cooperative • Sitka Herring Association • Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance
Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
United Catcher Boats • United Cook Inlet Drift Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters • Valdez Fisheries Development Association