



July, 2007

POSITION ON ALASKA MINERAL, OIL, AND GAS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND THE PROPOSED PEBBLE MINE PROJECT

The Pacific Seafood Processors Association (PSPA) represents seafood processing companies operating throughout coastal Alaska. These companies provide markets to thousands of fishermen and jobs to thousands of processing workers; generate significant economic benefits to communities and the state; and supply high quality seafood products to consumers around the world.

The investments of PSPA's member companies in Alaska's seafood industry are based primarily upon the productivity of Alaska's pristine waters. It is these well-managed waters and fisheries that have provided Alaskans and the world with a wide variety of premium seafood for over 100 years. If they continue to be managed well, these waters will provide an abundant food resource for hundreds of years to come.

Additionally, Alaska's seafood industry has invested heavily over the past three decades in marketing our products as "pure and healthful," and "coming from the most pristine waters on earth." Along with the actual purity and productivity of Alaska's waters, this public perception plays a critical role in the marketability of Alaska's seafood.

Because of our investments in and dependency upon Alaska's pure waters, healthy fishery resources, and the public image of Alaska's natural environment as pristine and unspoiled, PSPA has a keen interest in ensuring that any resource development projects undertaken in Alaska not damage Alaska's ecosystems or image.

With these factors in mind, the PSPA Board of Directors has followed proposed mineral, oil, and gas development projects in Alaska in recent years. As a matter of principle, for natural resource development projects (including fisheries), PSPA supports robust permitting

1900 W. Emerson Place
Suite 205
Seattle, WA 98119
Phone (206) 281-1667

222 Seward St.
Suite 200
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone (907) 586-6366

5849 Aspen Wood Ct.
Office C
McLean, VA 22101
Phone (703) 534-2705

www.pspafish.net

processes based on sound science; a full and open public process; careful benefit/risk analysis; and thorough review, oversight, and enforcement by appropriate agencies.

With regard to mineral, oil, and gas projects specifically, it is the position of the PSPA Board of Directors that the permitting process must carefully weigh potential shorter-term benefits from extraction of non-renewable resources against any potential negative impacts on perpetually renewable resources, such as fish and the waters and habitat upon which they depend. This would naturally require the permitting process to assess any potential impacts on the waters and watersheds within the range of the project and the routes to be used to transport the resources extracted by the project. Further, it is the Board's position that only projects that will not damage the market perception of the health benefits, purity, and wholesomeness of Alaska's seafood products should be permitted.

PSPA has applied these standards in reviewing the proposed Pebble Mine project near Lake Illiamna. Due to its location in one of the richest fishery resource areas of the world, applying a strict benefit/risk test for this large-scale hard rock mining project is especially appropriate. While we acknowledge the potential short-term economic benefits of the proposed project, we are deeply concerned about the enormous risk of long-term damage to one of Alaska's perpetual economic engines - renewable seafood. The investments of our Member companies in Bristol Bay, as elsewhere in Alaska, are based upon the preservation of pristine waters critical for the fish species upon which our businesses and the livelihoods of our employees and fishermen rely. If, as we understand the current plans for the Pebble Mine, it would degrade important watersheds feeding the world's most productive sockeye salmon fishery, then the project seems to us to pose an unacceptable risk. Thus, consistent with the principles above, PSPA would oppose the Pebble Mine project unless the developer can ensure that there will be no negative impacts to the region's water quality, nor to Alaska's fishery resources and their marketability.

PSPA recognizes the importance of economic diversification and resource development in Alaska. In assessing proposed mineral, oil, and gas projects, we will apply the standards set forth in this document. We look forward to continuing to work cooperatively with other industries and to supporting projects that can ensure no negative impact on fishery resources or the marketability of Alaska seafood.

1900 W. Emerson Place
Suite 205
Seattle, WA 98119
Phone (206) 281-1667

222 Seward St.
Suite 200
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone (907) 586-6366

5849 Aspen Wood Ct.
Office C
McLean, VA 22101
Phone (703) 534-2705

www.pspafish.net