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Biden administration, EPA to protect Alaska's Bristol Bay Watershed

Washington — Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency "a revised Proposed Determination under Clean Water Act Section 404(c) to prohibit and restrict the use of certain waters in the Bristol Bay watershed as disposal sites for the discharge of dredged or fill material associated with mining the Pebble Deposit." The is major step by the Biden administration to protect the Bristol Bay watershed in Alaska — the largest commercial sockeye salmon producing region in the world and home to one of the most prolific king salmon runs left on Earth.

For more information, you can visit the EPA's Bristol Bay release <u>here</u>. The agency EPA will accept public comments on the revised determination at public hearings in June and by written submissions through July 5.

Statement by Dr. Peter Winsor, Executive Director, Alaska Wilderness League:

"Placing a massive mine at the headwaters of the world's greatest, most productive wild sockeye salmon fishery has been a terrible idea from the start, and today's announcement shows the Biden administration's commitment to following the science and protecting clean water and valuable wildlife. We're glad to see EPA embrace its responsibility to protect Bristol Bay and the people who rely on it.

"Bristol Bay provides more than 50 percent of the global supply of sockeye salmon, and its entire marine ecosystem is critical for healthy communities as well as local and national economies. We're thankful those voices have been heard and that all those that depend on a healthy Bristol Bay can rest easier."

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Alaska Wilderness League stands with, serves and supports the many people and organizations that believe in a sustainable future for Alaska. We honor and respect the cultures of Alaska Natives whose way of life remains deeply connected to the state's land, waters and wildlife. We believe that Alaska's long-term economic future and subsistence traditions are inexorably tied to the health and sound stewardship of its natural resources, which support hunting, fishing, tourism, and unrivaled outdoor experiences that are central to Alaskans' quality of life.

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