



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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## UFA STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION TO DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEBBLE MINE

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is a trade association comprised of 36 Alaska commercial fishing organizations that collectively represent the interests of commercial fishermen throughout the state. UFA has a keen interest in maintaining environmental quality that allows for sustainable production, harvest and marketing of Alaska's fishery resources. While any planned development that potentially affects water quality and aquatic resources receives UFA's attention, the risks associated with large scale mining developments such as the Pebble Mine prospect in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed are of particular concern.

Recognizing that the Bristol Bay region's salmon resources typically account for more than a quarter of the state's ex-vessel salmon value and are integral to an economy that provides for fishermen, tenders, processing, support businesses, communities and families as well as net positive contributions to the State's General Fund, it is critically important for the commercial fishing industry to assure that other industrial development does not disrupt or degrade the area's fishing economy. While the permitting process for the Pebble Mine is only in its beginning stages and operational plans not yet fully determined, UFA is concerned that future mining operations, as well as the collateral impacts of construction, will cause significant impact. Consequently, UFA opposes development of the Pebble Mine.

Realizing that Northern Dynasty and other associated mining concerns will continue to pursue their proprietary interests through the regulatory permitting process as well as through administrative and political processes, UFA will remain engaged and will pursue any and all opportunities to ensure that proposed actions will neither degrade the productive habitat in the region or cause harm to the fisheries of the region.