From: Shoren Brown, Trout Unlimited
To: Bill Dunbar
Subject: Bristol Bay in the News August 27, 2012
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The Alaska Dispatch featured an interesting story on the Red Devil mercury mine cleanup just north of Bristol Bay. Although Alaska Governor Sean Parnell seems dead set against the EPA's Watershed Assessment, which is aimed at preventing long term water quality damage in Bristol Bay, at the same time he is pressing for additional federal help to clean up a severe mining mess. Red Devil is leaking toxins into the nearby Kuskokwim River, which hundreds of families rely upon for commercial and subsistence fishing. In addition, sediment tests show high levels of mercury and arsenic in surrounding soils.

An Alaska Journal story on the peer review panel quoted former EPA official Bill Reilly, who "said that a key challenge facing Pebble is a very large flow of wastewater, many times the volume of other Alaska mines." "There will be no opportunity for dilution, unlike all other Alaska mines, prior to discharge," to the environment, Riley told the independent review panel.

A story in the Bristol Bay Times underscored how robust the Bristol Bay commercial fishery performed this year in comparison to many salmon runs that suffered low returns this year. And, it emphasized how the fishery has grown in size and value. An excerpt reads: "In 2002 the overall harvest was at 10.6 -- less than half of this year's bay harvest -- and red prices hovered at 50 cents -- half of this year's tentative dollar per pound."

Finally, mining blogger and veteran mining engineer Jack Caldwell had strong words for the peer review panel that reviewed EPA's Watershed report. But, he had stronger words for mining tailings facilities and their prospect for failure. He writes: "It all boils down to these facts:

- Modern tailings facilities do fail.
- In the long term all tailings facilities will fail.
- And when they fail, the environment better be able to absorb the failure,
- Or all hell will break loose for fish and people."

For more information, visit www.savebristolbay.org

Alaska asks EPA to oversee cleanup of abandoned mercury mine
Alex DeMarban
Alaska Dispatch

The state is pressing the federal government to clean up an abandoned mercury mine in a remote section of Southwest Alaska that is oozing toxins into a river where hundreds of families fish for food and money...Click here to read more

Seafood buyers talk certification, mining with ASMI
Margaret Bauman
The Cordova Times
A customer advisory panel of major buyers of wild seafood has told the state's key seafood marketing entity that they trust the Alaska brand, but are concerned
about certification issues and fear the Pebble mine could devalue Alaska seafood...Click here to read more

The Pebble mine parade of cowards
Jack Caldwell
Mining
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Both sides of Pebble find fault with EPA study
Tim Bradner
Alaska Journal of Commerce
Scientists and attorneys on both sides of the Pebble mine controversy are voicing starkly different opinions of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Bristol Bay watershed study...Click here to read more

Bristol Bay Sockeye is Helping Salmon find their Way...to the Table
Sustainable AK Sockeye Bristol Bay Release
PR Web and Red Orbit
Bristol Bay, Alaska is home to the largest sockeye run in the world, and now a new custom app on Facebook is helping salmon lovers everywhere find this healthy, delicious fish right in their neighborhoods...Click here to read more

No surprises in Pebble's "Expert" Testimony Against EPA
Joel Reynolds
NRDC Switchboard
The August 16, 2012 "Pebble Update" from the Pebble Partnership summarizes testimony they consider most persuasive in discrediting the U.S. EPA's Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment process...Click here to read more

Pebble Mine opponent running for mayor of Lake and Pen
Alaska Dispatch
Lake and Peninsula Borough sprawls across more than 30,000 square miles of Southwest Alaska. With fewer than 2,000 full-time residents, it's among the least populated places in the United States...Click here to read more

Report warns against offshore drilling in Bristol Bay
The Cordova Times
A new report from an Alaska conservation group calls for putting the seafood rich waters of Bristol Bay permanently off limits to offshore drilling for oil and gas...Click here to read more

Bristol Bay salmon runs fare better than elsewhere in Alaska

Hannah Heimbuch, The Bristol Bay Times
Alaska Dispatch
The last of the pink salmon are wending their way to spawning grounds and used gear is stripped and stored for next year...Click here to read more

Grant will give a boost to Bristol Bay training programs
Laine Welch
Anchorage Daily News
Jobs are being put on the fast track in Bristol Bay, with a focus on careers that go hand in hand with the region's culture and economy: commercial fishing and seafood processing...Click here to read more

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