13. A map presented by Mr. McCreadie indicated downwelling occurs beneath the Pebble deposit and generally porous soils throughout the region facilitate groundwater/surface water exchange. In light of that, how will pollution be contained from the aquifer below if Pebble is developed? Do you plan to put a liner below the entire waste rock and tailings areas?
14. We would like to understand how much water will be extracted from rivers during mining operations, and where it will come from? Where will you extract water in the winter when surface waters are frozen? Do you have a map that shows what streams and tributaries will go dry, and how that is expected to change as the mine expands?
15. The presentation of the groundwater model was highly technical—even more so than other aspects of presentations. We would like a more concise and understandable explanation. Further, Mr. McCreadie indicated the model is less reliable ten miles downstream of the Pebble site. Given that downstream areas are of particular concern relative to our subsistence use, we would like more confidence that those areas are appropriately characterized.
16. Due to extensive questions and discussion, Mr. McCreadie ran out of time to discuss water quality. As this is of central importance to our subsistence resources, we would like to hear more about water quality studies (in a digestible format) in the future. We would like to know what the water looks like where healthy and spawning fish exist now, and how your data informs you about the way water quality – and aquatic species – could change. What are the risks, and how is your research informing plans to reduce risk?

FISH AND AQUATIC HABITAT QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

We believe PLP studies would greatly benefit from input from people who live in and use the area.

1. Ms. Keefe stated that streams are single threaded. In our experience, streams in the study area are complex with overflow regions, sloughs, beaver complexes and wetlands. Fish use all these areas.
2. Ms. Keefe stated that pool habitat is ideal for salmonid rearing, and that few pools and/or beavers are present in the Upper Talarik drainage. Our experience in the region counters this statement. You also indicated that beaver dams of a few feet high block fish from upper waters. This is not true as we see salmon and mountain trout and other fish above higher beaver dams.
3. See question 5 above. ADFG data as well as our own experience indicate that salmon spawn above what you refer to as the "dry reach" of South Fork Koktuli.
4. Data presented suggest that trout are not a major component of the Upper Talarik. This is not consistent with our experience.
5. Ms. Keefe stated that none of the "Pebble Beach" lakes are connected to Upper Talarik. Nondalton residents are aware not only of groundwater connections between the lakes and Upper Talarik, but rearing coho, large rainbow trout, and spawning sockeye in those lakes.
6. We are concerned about the exclusion of headwater and tributary habitat from your models, as we know it to be important rearing habitat for salmon and other species.
7. How many total salmon spawn in the North Fork Koktuli? The South Fork Koktuli? Upper Talarik Creek? We could not find this information in the EBD. Where is this information in the EBD?