EPA-1261

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To Phil North
cc
bcc
Subject Bristol Bay in the News April 24, 2012

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While 40 sportsmen from across the country blanketed the nation's capital last week to urge the Obama Administration and Congress to protect Bristol Bay, the EPA responded to the state of Alaska's request to halt its ongoing watershed assessment.

In a response to a letter from Alaska Attorney General Michael Geraghty, EPA Region 10 Administrator Dennis McLerran noted that the EPA's process was initiated at the request of Alaska Native tribes and numerous others, and that it has been transparent. He added that EPA had worked to address the state's concerns, was happy to meet with the state again and had not begun any regulatory actions. McLerran wrote: "The Watershed Assessment will provide important data that will help inform future decision-making with respect to Bristol Bay — whether it be use of our authority under Section 404(c) or another action— as we work with the State and others to ensure the sustainability of the fisheries."

A Salt Lake City letter writer expressed frustration with Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch, who called Pebble an Alaskan state issue. Stuart McDonald writes, "In other words, "states' rights," by Hatch's unspoken but real definition, means the rights of mostly multi-national businesses to corrupt any state government and its officials so they can do whatever they want in that state purely for their profit and not for the benefit of the people of the state, let alone the country."

Lastly, teens from Alaska Youth for Environmental Action presented Legislator of the Year Awards to three representatives, Sen. Gary Stevens, Sen. Bill Wielechowski, and Sen. Hollis French for their work on protecting Bristol Bay, combating genetically modified fish and other issues.

To learn more, visit www.savebristolbay.org

Shoren Brown
Bristol Bay Campaign Director

Tim Bristol
Trout Unlimited Alaska Director

EPA speaks out on Bristol Bay watershed assessment
Margaret Bauman
The Cordova Times
Federal environmental officials are defending the legality of conducting the Bristol Bay watershed assessment, a draft report of which is due out in May, with goals that include an understanding of effects of large-scale development on water quality and fisheries… Click here to read more

Reply to Alaska AG Geraghty
Dennis McLerran
Homer Tribune
Thank you for your letter dated, March 9, expressing the State of Alaska's concerns regarding the EPA's Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment. Your letter raises a number of concerns about the process the EPA is employing to develop the Watershed Assessment and raises questions about its legality… Click here to read more

EPA Defends Process for Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment
Fishermen's News Online
Federal officials rebuked by the state of Alaska for conducting a Bristol Bay watershed assessment that could thwart development of a massive mine are defending the study on grounds that it will provide much information on potential effects of mining… Click here to read more

State's Rights means big corporate will get lands
Stuart McDonald, Salt Lake City UT
Standard-Examiner
I got a letter from Senator Hatch in response to my request that he oppose Rio Tinto's proposed open-pit Pebble Mine in Alaska (like the environmentally disastrous Kennecott Copper Mine also owned by Rio Tinto in the Oquirrh Mountains just west of Salt Lake City). He said that there is nothing he can do about the Pebble Mine because it is in Alaska… Click here to read more

Pebble Mine Precedent
Geoff Mueller
Drake Magazine
The Environmental Protection Agency will release its draft Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment in just a few weeks. This precedent-setting scientific assessment will likely guide decisions about large-scale mining and other industrial development in the Bristol Bay region well into the future… Click here to read more

Courtesy, please
Jean Weingartner Fairbanks AK
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
I am a teacher in the Global Studies Department at West Valley High School, where we have just finished a unit on the proposed Pebble Mine. The students had to research the

potential benefits and problems of developing the mine in the Bristol Bay region… Click here to read more

Alaskan students gather at Capitol for environmental action
Juneau Empire
Juneau teen Natalie Wade joined a diverse group of teenagers — with participants from Barrow to Ninilchik to Sitka — for the week-long Civics and Conservation Summit in Juneau with Alaska Youth for Environmental Action, a program of National Wildlife Federation… Click here to read more

Seafood industry gets congressional audience
Laine Welch
Bristol Bay Times and *Dutch Harbor Fisherman*
For the first time ever, seafood industry reps were invited to brief policy makers in Congress on jobs and economic opportunities. Last Thursday the group presented a panel discussion called 'Seafood Jobs in America' to the Senate Oceans Caucus and an audience of 80 people… Click here to read more

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