

AIFMA LEADER

Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association

May 2007

Protect the World's Largest Sockeye Salmon Run

It's been a busy winter for AIFMA. Besides attending two Board of Fisheries hearings, AIFMA has increasingly become focused on the environmental threats to our fishery.

The Bering Sea is the world's fish basket. It is home to 450 species of fish, crustaceans and mollusks, 50 species of seabirds and 25 species of marine mammals. Bristol Bay, located in the Bering Sea, is home to the largest sockeye salmon run in the world.

Proposals to allow offshore drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lease Sale 92 Area and development of an immense open-pit copper and gold mine in the Bristol Bay watershed have the potential to spread a cancer on our fishery.

Offshore Drilling—By the U.S. government's own estimates at least one major oil spill *will* occur, if offshore drilling is allowed. With prevailing sea surface currents, oil from such a catastrophe would end up on the shores of Bristol Bay. In addition, the daily allowable releases will impact the food chain. Say goodbye to Togiak herring.

One has to only look at Prince William Sound to see the detrimental effects of an oil spill. There has not been a commercial herring fishery in PWS, since the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, and the damage to that environment is permanent.

Support the bipartisan bills to reinstate the oil and gas drilling moratorium in the Bering Sea. A bill was submitted to the U.S. House by Representatives Inslee (D-WA), Hinchey (D-NY) and Gilchrest (R-MD) called **The Bristol Bay Protection Act (HR 1957)**. Senator

Bristol Bay Anti-Pebble Mine Rally and BBQ

Dillingham, Sun., June 10th,
4:00 p.m., PAF boatyard

Naknek, Sat., June
16th, 4:00 p.m.
(probably at high school)



BBQ'd King salmon will be served to the first 100 people.

Sponsors:

AIFMA, Renewable Resources Coalition, Peter Pan Seafoods, Leader Creek Fisheries, Baywatch

Kerry (D-MA) has submitted a companion bill in the U.S. Senate.

Pebble Mine—Releases of cyanide, sulfuric acid and other chemicals into salmon habitat for the purpose of hard rock mining must be prevented.

Please come to the anti-Pebble rally and support the campaign against the mine.

All of our efforts over the last decades will be for naught, if mining along with oil and gas drilling, are allowed to infect our fisheries.

With the current upswing in salmon prices, let's not drop the ball and lose the whole game.

Good luck fishing this summer.

David Harsila, AIFMA President

Thanks to AIFMA members for their support!

Pebble Mine Facing Wide Opposition

The Renewable Resources Coalition (RRC) is proud to continue leading the opposition to the proposed Pebble mining district at the headwaters of the Bristol Bay watershed and has made great strides in convincing Alaska residents statewide that the giant mining project is a monumentally bad idea.

A recent statewide poll (Apr 07) by The Cromer Group out of Washington D.C. indicates that **62% of all eligible Alaskan voters are now opposed to the Pebble Mine**, while only 23% support the Canadian mining company's proposed project. This compares to 53% in September 2006 who were opposed to the mine and 28% in favor. Awareness of the Pebble Mine Project, which was a big problem last year, has risen from 57 percent in September 2006 to 86 percent today. Hopefully, we can keep this momentum going.

A new front in the campaign against Pebble has begun. Recently a **petition was filed** with the Lieutenant Governor's Office proposing the "**Alaska Clean Water Initiative**". The initiative, if permitted by the Lt. Governor and after about 35,000 signatures are gathered, will give Alaskans a chance to vote to protect Alaska's clean water, streams, rivers and lakes from new, large scale, metallic mineral mining operations.

These types of mining operations would be prohibited from releasing toxic pollutants, including cyanide and sulfuric acid, into "...any surface or subsurface waters that are used by humans for drinking or by salmon in spawning, rearing, migration, or propagation of the species" in the words of the initiative. The Pebble Mine poses just such a risk and accordingly the

(Continued on page 7)

Area M Board of Fisheries Salmon Results

Proposal Number	Action Taken	Description
207	Carried	Modifies opening of Ilnik Section salmon fishery. Proposal seeks to open the commercial salmon fishing season within the Ilnik Section SW of Unangashak Bluffs if Ilnik River sockeye salmon abundance warrants, and NE of Unangashak Bluffs if Meshik and Ilnik rivers sockeye salmon stocks warrant, as early as June 20 (instead of June 25th).
208	Carried	Modifies opening of Ilnik Lagoon salmon fishery. In the Cinder River, Inner Port Heiden, and Ilnik Sections salmon may be taken only from 6 a.m. Monday until 6 pm Wednesday except that before June 20 (instead of the 25th) in that portion of the Ilnik Section within Ilnik Lagoon and all waters inside the Seal Island, salmon may be taken only from noon Monday until 11:59 pm Wednesday.
210	Carried as amended	Changes boundary for sockeye season in Northern District. New fishing area addition: Outer Port Heiden Section will be open from June 20 through July 31 for driftnets. New regulation: In the Outer Port Heiden Section commercial salmon fishing will be permitted southwest of 158°36'W. long. Based on the abundance of Meshik River sockeye salmon; except that if the commission closes that portion of the Egegik District specified in 5AAC06.359(c) for conservation of Ugashik River sockeye salmon stocks, the commission may establish additional fishing restrictions;

***AIFMA Comment:** These three proposals that passed at the Area M Board of Fisheries meeting this winter could significantly impact Bristol Bay. The new regulations will allow for earlier fishing openings and fishing in areas close to Bristol Bay. Increased interceptions of Bristol Bay stocks will occur.*

2007 ADF&G Salmon Processing Capacity Survey

Sockeye: Processing capacity exceeds the forecasted sockeye harvest in all areas of Alaska. Processing capacity in Bristol Bay is 3.9 million higher than the forecasted harvest of 26.3 million.

Tenders: Processors purchasing salmon in the Alaska Peninsula indicated the number of tenders they plan to employ in 2007 will be the same as they employed during the 2006 season. Processors in Cook Inlet indicated they will employ fewer tenders, while processors operating in Bristol Bay, Prince William Sound, S.E./Yakutat and Kodiak plan to increase their tender fleets.

BBEDC Buys into Ocean Beauty

The Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation will buy a 50 percent share of Ocean Beauty (OB). According to OB, "This investment allows vertical integration of the BBEDC resources such as crab, salmon, halibut and groundfish with the largest salmon processor in the State of Alaska".

"We have found the ideal company to invest in," said Robin Samuelsen, CEO of the BBEDC. "Ocean Beauty will allow us to expand opportunities for our residents. Their commitment to shore-based processing and Alaskan rural community viability is a natural fit with the mission of the BBEDC, which is to improve the economic conditions for the residents of Bristol Bay, Alaska."

"Integrating this much raw material into Ocean Beauty's retail brands through our marketing strength, R&D capacity, value-added capabilities, world-class packaging, and our large and experienced sales force, makes this a tremendous win for everyone involved," said Mark Palmer, Ocean Beauty President and COO. "This investment will help Wild Alaskan seafood expand its presence and value across both the domestic and international markets."

Neither company plans major management changes, they said. Ocean Beauty will remain in its current headquarters in Seattle, and all seven of its Alaska processing plants will continue to operate as normal.

BBRSDA Board of Directors Election Results

President: Robert Heyano

V.P.: Chris McDowell

Treasurer: Mike LaRussa

Secretary: Warren Johnson

Other Board Members:

Mark Buckley, Buck Gibbons, Nick Lee

RSDA Election Summary

State	Votes Cast
AK	265 votes
WA	224 votes
OR	33 votes
CA	21 votes
ID	11 votes
Other	39 votes from 23 states
Total	593 Ballots Received

2006 Bristol Bay Salmon Prices

2006 Bristol Bay Sockeye Ex-Vessel Prices

Processor	Base Price/lb.*	RSW/lb.	Production Payments	Boat Storage Allotment	Notes
Leader Creek	.77	Included			Price includes RSW/Ice
Alaska General Seafoods	.64	None	0-6¢/lb.		
Trident	.62	10¢/lb.	0-10¢/lb.		
Baywatch	.60	8¢/lb.			According to Baywatch 5¢/lb. adjustment mailed week of 5/14/07
Icicle	.60	10¢/lb.	Up to 12¢/lb.		
Norquest	.60	10¢/lb.	5-12¢/lb.		70,000 lbs. to qualify for minimum production payment
North Pacific Seafoods	.60	None	6-12¢/lb.		80,000 lbs. to qualify for minimum production payment. 6¢ for 80,000 lbs. and 12¢ for over 140,000 lbs.
Ocean Beauty	.60	10¢/lb.	Up to 12¢	\$900-\$2,700 (based on production)	
Peter Pan	.60	14¢/lb.	2-4¢		Drift fleet: 85,000 lbs. to qualify for 2¢. 180,000 to qualify for 4¢. Any fisherman who delivered in excess of 130,000 lbs. (who was not RSW or slush iced) credited an additional 4¢ against vessel improvements made in 2006, or will make in 2007, to address quality.
Snopac	.60	10¢/lb.			
YAK	.60	10¢/lb.	6-12¢/lb.		80,000 lbs. to qualify for minimum production payment. 6¢ for 80,000 lbs. and 12¢/lb. for over 150,000 lbs.

**Price information provided by fishermen. AIFMA strives to report accurate sockeye salmon prices. Please call, if an inaccurate price is listed.*



Delegation members (above) traveled to Wash. D.C. to oppose offshore oil and gas leasing in the Bering Sea. From left to right: Tom Tilden, David Harsila (AIFMA President), Karen Gillis, Representative Don Young (R-AK), Terry & Aurora Hoefflerle and Mike Davis. Members of the delegation met with 25 congresspersons and aids. As a result of the visit, bipartisan bills were submitted in the Senate and House to protect Bristol Bay from oil drilling.

2006 Bristol Bay Chum Ex-Vessel Prices

Processor	Base Price/lb.
Icicle	15¢/lb.
Trident	15¢/lb.
Norquest	15¢/lb.
YAK	15¢/lb.
Alaska General Seafoods	10¢/lb.
Baywatch	10¢/lb.
Leader Creek	10¢/lb.
Ocean Beauty	10¢/lb.
Peter Pan	10¢/lb.
North Pacific Seafoods	5¢/lb.
Snopac	5¢/lb.

AIFMA's Web Page Online Soon! www.aifma.org

Join AIFMA's member e-mail list. E-mail aifma1@seanet.com to receive breaking news & informational updates.

Bristol Bay Considered for Oil & Gas Leasing

If the proposed Pebble Mine wasn't giving you enough to worry about with regards to the future health of the Bristol Bay salmon fishery, plans to allow offshore drilling amid important salmon migratory and feeding areas are being solidified.

In January, President Bush lifted a long-standing ban on drilling in the bay's fish-rich waters. This move paved the way for the Minerals Management Service (MMS), the federal agency in charge of offshore leasing decisions, to include a Bristol Bay lease sale for 2011 in the recently released final version of the nation's 5-year Outer Continental Shelf program at:

www.mms.gov/5-year/

Congress is given a 60-day window to review the program. However, there are no more opportunities for the public to officially submit comments to MMS.

The area targeted for leasing is a 5.6 million acre wedge-shaped block at the southeastern end of the bay, off the Alaska Peninsula. The block, known as the Lease Sale 92 area, was offered for sale in 1986 and then subsequently bought back for more than \$100 million dollars after the Exxon Valdez spill. AIFMA, along with many other fishing and community organizations, was part of the battle in the early 90's to buyback these leases and put in place protection measures for Bristol Bay.

Politics surrounding the issue began to shift as memories of the spill faded, salmon prices plummeted and the cost for oil and gas began to rise. In 2003, Congress set in motion a process of eroding protection when the congressional moratorium that had existed for more than 12 years was removed.

Over the years, declining salmon prices and high costs of energy in the region have led some to reconsider offshore drilling. Shell Oil has been openly broadcasting their desire to make Bristol Bay a cornerstone of their operations in Alaska. Shell has hired a number of people within the region to do their bidding, including Dan O'Hara, now

mayor of the Bristol Bay Borough. The Borough, who had long been on record opposing offshore development, is now standing alongside the Lake and Peninsula Borough and the Aleutians East Borough in promoting offshore development.

The Aleutians East Borough (AEB) has been extremely active and vocal in broadcasting their support for offshore drilling over the past few years. Shell has made promises to the communities of cheap energy, jobs and infrastructure that could reinvigorate the economically struggling region.

Because drilling would take place off the Peninsula, needed infrastructure, including a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant, would likely be located in AEB.

"...an uprising from those with a direct stake in the future health of this region is needed to increase the chances of success and protect Bristol Bay."

However, experts such as the University of Alaska's Gunnar Knapp and even MMS' own documents suggest that benefits to local communities are



likely to be few. Currently, there are no revenue sharing provisions for drilling in Alaska's federal waters and most jobs created would be short term and others would require special expertise. Providing a local source of cheap energy is also unlikely, according to Knapp, due to the high cost involved.

Opposition to Drilling Remains Strong

While some regional entities, including the Aleutians East Borough and Lake and Peninsula Borough, are supporting offshore drilling, opposition in Bristol Bay remains strong. Over 40 local villages, Tribes, fishing interests and regional groups are opposed to drilling. These include prominent entities such as the BBNA, BBEDC and the Bering Sea Fish-

Bristol Bay Offshore Drilling Timeline

1986 Despite broad opposition from communities, villages, Tribes, local governments, fishing interests and the State, the Minerals Management Service (MMS)- the federal agency in charge of offshore oil and gas activities- held Lease Sale 92 offering 5.6 million acres in Bristol Bay and the southeast Bering Sea for offshore leasing.

1990 After the Exxon Valdez oil spill, there was a renewed outcry to protect Bristol Bay. Congress responded by adding Bristol Bay to the nearly-nationwide **congressional moratorium** on offshore oil and gas leasing.

1995 Because the leases were made inactive by the moratorium, the Department of Interior reached a settlement of more than \$100 million to buyback the leases.

1998 President Clinton added Bristol Bay to the areas protected by an **executive ban** on leasing through 2012.

2003 Less than 10 years after the buyback, Congress removed Bristol Bay from the offshore moratorium.

2007 On January 7, President Bush removed the executive ban on offshore drilling, leaving no protection for Bristol Bay. On April 30, MMS announced it was including a Bristol Bay lease sale for 2011 in the final version of the national 5-year offshore leasing program.

...Oil & Gas Leasing, continued

ermen's Assoc. Individual villages ranging from Chignik Lake to Naknek to Goodnews Bay have passed their own resolutions stating opposition.

Tom Tilden, Chief of the Curyung Tribal Council, explained his Tribe's position: "Little benefit would come to our communities from offshore development, but the risks to the fish and wildlife resources that are the irreplaceable mainstay of Alaska Native tradition and culture are tremendous," Tilden said.

Friends of Bristol Bay, a project of the Alaska Marine Conservation Council (AMCC), has been working on the issue for over 3 years and continues to forge ahead with strategies for reinstating permanent protection for the region. Conservation groups from Alaska and the lower-48 have also begun to turn more attention to Bristol Bay which has helped to raise the profile of the issue.

Efforts Underway to Restore Protection

A window of opportunity exists with 4 years to go before the 2011 lease sale. Drawing upon the prior history of protection, **AIFMA is working with AMCC, other fishing interests, conservation groups, regional organizations and local villages and Tribes in a renewed effort to restore protection from offshore drilling.** Congress has the power to reinstate protection for Bristol Bay and a new President will have the opportunity to put the executive ban on leasing back in place.

Groups have already succeeded in getting their first shot in Congress. In April, the bipartisan Bristol Bay Protection Act (HR 1957) was introduced by Reps. Inslee (D-WA), Hinchey (D-NY) and Gilchrest (R-MD) in the House. Sen. John Kerry (D-MA) submitted a companion bill in the Senate in early May.

A movement is afoot to gain a large number of cosponsors for the bills that would permanently ban offshore drilling in Bristol Bay. Currently, the chances of the bills succeeding are unclear and the Alaska congressional delegation is not supporting the bills.

An uprising from those with a direct



Minerals Management Service photo

stake in the future health of the region including fishermen and locals, is needed to increase the chances of success. Regaining protection for Bristol Bay may not be "easy, fun, or fast," as some have put it. However, the task is essential given the tremendous risks posed to the region's fisheries.

What You Can Do—Write, call, or e-mail elected officials.

Congress members, especially those in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, need to hear from fishermen on this issue. The legislative options for restoring protection require vocal support from those who have an economic

stake in the health of the fishery. The 60-day review period also provides an opportunity for you to let your representative(s) know how you feel about the drilling proposals.

Coastal Governors, especially Alaska Governor Sarah Palin, also have a strong voice in offshore leasing decisions. Send letters or call offices to tell them you oppose offshore drilling in Bristol Bay.

Send letters to local newspaper:

The more exposure this issue gets with the public, the better our chances of succeeding. Letters to the editor and longer opinion pieces in local papers are a great way to get your message on offshore drilling out there.

Join the Bristol Bay OCS listserv for the latest news and action items. Send me and e-mail to stay up to date and to learn more about opportunities for action.

Contact Janis Harsila at AIFMA or me for draft letters and bullet points that you could use for letters to the editor or to public officials.

Kelly Harrell,
Friends of Bristol Bay,
Alaska Marine Conservation Council
Kelly@akmarine.org

Risks to Salmon from Offshore Oil & Gas Drilling

- Oil spills: MMS predicts offshore drilling in Bristol Bay would lead to **at least one large oil spill** and numerous smaller spills. The average large spill size from platforms- 1,000 barrels (42,000 gallons); from pipelines-4,600 barrels (193,200 gallons). These spill estimates should be considered more of a 'best case' than 'worst case' scenario.
- In the summertime, the dominant sea surface currents would likely push any spilled oil in a northeasterly direction towards the Bristol Bay salmon fishery.
- Offshore drilling would put salmon at risk throughout a number of life stages. Sockeye smolts outmigrate from Bristol Bay through the Lease Sale 92 area and surveys have shown that juveniles concentrate and feed in an area that overlaps the Sale 92 area. As adults returning to spawn, sockeye swim again through the southern side of the Sale 92 area, near Port Moller. This area is at high risk from a spill, as the proposed transportation route for getting oil and gas to market calls for a pipeline through Herendeen Bay. Spill rates from offshore pipelines have not decreased over the last 20 years and regulations overseeing their maintenance are sorely lacking.
- Offshore seismic surveys and the discharge of potentially toxic drilling muds and cuttings could also cause sub lethal or lethal impacts to salmon and/or their prey.
- The installation of infrastructure including pipelines can cause degradation of nearshore and freshwater habitat for salmon and their prey species. Stream crossings and dredging of coastal habitats could be necessary.

Working Against Offshore Aquaculture

AIFMA signed onto the following letter along with 30 other groups opposing the National Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2007.

Madeline Z. Bordallo, Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife & Oceans, Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Bordallo:

Conservation, food safety, business and fishing organizations from across the nation urge you to oppose legislation proposed and transmitted to Congress by NOAA on March 12, 2007, concerning offshore aquaculture in U.S. ocean waters.

The bill, "**The National Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2007**," will be introduced today by House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick Rahall (D-WV) at the request of the Administration. While a slight improvement over legislation introduced in 2005, **we strongly oppose the bill** because it appears to promote aquaculture, in particular ocean fish farming, at the expense of marine ecosystems and fishing communities. We believe that strong standards to eliminate or minimize the significant environmental and socioeconomic impacts of ocean fish farming must be provided in statutory criteria for issuing permits, and not merely addressed in a subsequent rulemaking process.

NOAA's proposed legislation does not contain adequate standards to eliminate or minimize diseases and parasites transmitted from farmed to wild finfish species; pollution of the marine environment with fish wastes and excess feed; contamination of humans and wildlife from feeds, drugs and chemicals; harm to marine mammals and other wildlife from predator controls; and the decimation of populations of important forage fish such as menhaden, herring and anchovies used to feed carnivorous farmed species.

The proposed legislation also fails to develop a precautionary and transparent permitting and regulatory program, provide an adequate role for states and Fishery Management Councils, or protect essential fish habitat and other sensitive ocean sites.

Some of these issues have been addressed in legislation enacted in California in 2006 (the Sustainable Oceans Act) and in the recommendations of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's Marine Aquaculture Task Force in 2007 (*Sustainable Marine Aquaculture: Fulfilling the Promise; Managing the Risks*).

Based on the bill's inadequacies, and the considerable harm that promoting an unsustainable fish farming industry would have on fishing communities and marine ecosystems, **we urge you to oppose NOAA's aquaculture legislation as currently written.**

Thank you for considering our views, and please feel free to contact any of the groups listed below for more information.

Sincerely,

AIFMA, Institute for Fisheries Resources, Ocean Conservancy, Environmental Defense, Alaska Marine Conservation Council, Alaska Trollers Association, Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association, Center for Food Safety, Clean Catch, Columbia River Crab Fishermen's Association, Environment Matters, Fishing Vessel Owners' Association, Food & Water Watch, Go Wild Campaign, Gulf Restoration Network, Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association, Mangrove Action Project, Monterey Bay Aquarium, National Coalition for Marine Conservation, National Farmers Union, Northcoast Environmental Center, Oceana, Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Associations, Pacific Marine Conservation Council, Puget Sound Harvesters Association, Sierra Club, Small Boat Commercial Salmon Fishermen's Association, Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance, Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association, Southern Shrimp Alliance, United Fishermen of Alaska

What you can do. Let your congressional representatives know your viewpoint on the National Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2007.

Disney Food Fraud

King salmon on the menu, farmed Atlantic on the plate.

I recently went on vacation to Disney World in Florida. One evening we went out to eat at the Le Cellier Restaurant in the Canada Pavilion at Epcot center. The Le Cellier is an upscale place so I wasn't surprised to see salmon on the menu as both an appetizer and an entrée.

I was surprised to see the entrée was king salmon though. I always ask when I see salmon on the menu if it is farmed or wild, but I was somewhat disappointed when the server had no clue. She went and asked someone and came back to tell me it was "from freshwater in the Atlantic".

After the meal, I asked the chef about the salmon and he admitted it was farmed Atlantic salmon from the east coast of Canada. I asked why it was listed as king salmon on the menu and he didn't know that it was. He said they didn't have any say about what was put on the menu. He said, even though wild fish was better, they had trouble getting it and it was easier to deal with farmed fish.

Call Chef Jeff at the Le Cellier (407) 560-6857 and ask why he serves dye fed farmed fish to people and calls it king salmon.

Tim Sands, Management Biologist,
ADF&G-Bristol Bay Area Westside

Trident and Icicle Embrace Farmed Fish Industry

Icicle Seafoods has formed a fish company in Chile to begin producing salmon and trout. The target market will be Asian and Eastern European markets.

Trident Seafoods also announced that it is now buying and reselling farmed products from Marine Harvest, one of the world's top farmed salmon producers based in Oslo, Norway.



...Pebble Mine Faces Stiff Opposition, continued

(Continued from page 1)

RRC strongly supports the Clean Water Initiative.

The petition was sponsored by Bristol Bay resident Luki Akelkok, President of the Bristol Bay Native organization Nunumta Aulekstai; Jack Hobson, Nondalton Village Tribal president; and John Holman, owner of the No See Um Lodge on the Kvichak River. They, along with 255 other sponsors including commercial fishermen, natives and sportsmen, took a giant step forward in the fight to stop the proposed Pebble Mine.

It is the hope of the sponsors that the people of Alaska will get to vote on keeping Alaska's waters clean, not only for those who presently depend on the state's clean water and wild salmon for a living, but also for those who need these renewable resources for subsistence and recreation. In the normal course of events, the initiative will be voted on in the primary of August, 2008. The exact language of the initiative can be seen at:

www.renewableresourcescoalition.org/Clean_water.html

On another front, House Bill 134 and Senate Bill 67 were introduced earlier in the year in the Alaska legislature, which would protect the salmon spawning rivers of the Bristol Bay watershed. However, they have been stalled in legislative committees.

HB 134, introduced in February by Representatives Edgmon, Ramras, Dahlstrom, Gara and Kerttula, is entitled "An Act relating to conservation and protection of wild salmon production in drainages affecting the Bristol Bay Fisheries Reserve;..." has had several hearings by the House Fisheries Committee.

SB 67, introduced in January by Senators Stevens and Ellis, is entitled, "An Act establishing the Jay Hammond State Game Refuge; and providing for an effective date."

Neither bill has made it out of its initial legislative committee assignments and SB67 has not even had a hearing.

What you can do to help:

We ask that people write to the committee members, specifically Senator Gary Stevens and Representative Bryce Edgmon, in order to get these bills moving. Mail to either at State Capitol, Juneau, AK 99801-1182 or by e-mail:

Sen_Gary_Stevens@legis.state.ak.us

Rep_Bryce_Edgmon@legis.state.ak.us

Anti-Pebble Rally & BBQ

In other recent developments, the RRC is planning barbeques and anti-Pebble rallies in Dillingham and in Naknek for commercial fishermen in the middle of June. **Please call our office in Anchorage at 907-743-1900, if**

you can help out at one of these events or wish to contribute something.

Also, the RRC has named Dr. Carol Ann Woody as its Chief Consulting Scientist on Pebble. Dr. Woody was previously a fisheries scientist with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Danny Consenstein has been named by RRC as its new COO to replace Scott Brennan who is taking a well earned six month sabbatical from the campaign.

For more information on the Stop Pebble campaign, please visit our website to sign up for our newsletter :

www.RenewableResourcesCoalition.org

Richard Jameson, President
Renewable Resources Coalition

Lawmakers Should Stand up for Wild Salmon, Alaska Fishing

AIFMA's Letter to the Editor was published in the Anchorage Daily News (4/30/07)

Alaska's greatest salmon fishery is facing a threat to its survival. The prospect of an industrial mining district in the Bristol Bay region anchored by the massive Pebble Mine has struck fear in the hearts of Alaska's commercial, Native and recreational fishermen who are united in opposition to it.

Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association (AIFMA) is the largest fishermen's association in Bristol Bay. Many of our members live and work in the region, and I've had the good fortune to fish alongside them for more than 30 years.

AIFMA supports pro-salmon bills pending in the state Legislature, House Bill 134 introduced by Rep. Bryce Edgmon, and Senate Bill 67, the Jay Hammond State Game Refuge bill, introduced by Sen. Gary Stevens. Both have bipartisan support and recognize the irreplaceable value of this extraordinary fishery. Although details differ, both would install reasonable measures to safeguard clean water and salmon habitat from industrial mining, while allowing fishing, municipal growth, and other economic development to continue.

Unfortunately, lawmakers have barely lifted a finger to move these bills, holding just one hearing in the House Fisheries Committee on the fate of the Bristol Bay salmon fishery. These bills deserve immediate attention. Stalling in Juneau, while Northern Dynasty seeks permits, won't sit well with any commercial fishermen I know. Lawmakers should stand up for Alaska's wild salmon and the fishing industry that defines the region. I hope they will.

David Harsila, President, AIFMA

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AIFMA LEADER



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Inside this issue:



Mining & Oil Drilling In Bristol Bay