

Spring 2011



BRISTOL BAY CURRENTS

Newsletter of the Bristol Bay

Watershed & Fisheries Protection Campaign

Hello All,

As we have made it through another Alaska winter, excitement has begun to mount as we anticipate the coming fishing season. But before we move on completely, you will see that the winter months brought some bright points detailed here. Highlights include work by the EPA that shows the careful consideration they are taking in responding to the request by six Bristol Bay tribes to permanently protect the headwaters of the Kvichak and Nushagak watersheds from large-scale industrial development. Bristol Bay residents and stakeholders reiterated this concern to Alaska legislators in Juneau, emphasizing what is at stake by sharing Bristol Bay salmon prepared by renowned chef Joel Chenet. Several events and publications highlighted the beauty of Bristol Bay put at risk by mines like Pebble: the photographs of National Geographic photographer Michael Melford combined with the words of Alaska's own Dave Atcheson in a new book entitled *Hidden Alaska: Bristol Bay and Beyond*; exhibits of Melford's work and new photographs by Nick Hall in Juneau also captured Bristol Bay's majesty. Throughout our work this winter, the voices of Bristol Bay grew louder and carried from Alaska to Washington, D.C. asking for protection for this special place.



Bob Waldrop

The work we are all doing now to protect Bristol Bay gives us the opportunity to focus on what is truly important and what we want for our futures. Out of this effort the ongoing Bristol Bay Fly Fishing and Guide Academy was born and the Savor Bristol Bay program has raised the consciousness of consumers who seek out Bristol Bay salmon in greater numbers every year. It was encouraging to see elders work together with youth from Alaska Youth for Environmental Action congregate in Juneau to share their common vision for the future. With each day, more people lend a hand to support the work and this year has brought with it new lives that emphasize our focus on future generations. Shifting our sights to the upcoming season, we all wish you, "Good Luck and Good Fishing!"

Melanie Brown Naknek Set-Netter and Mother of Future Fishers

EPA SCIENCE STUDY
FRASER RIVER FALLACY
MARCH MADNESS
COOKING FOR BB
FLY FISHING = JOBS
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KEY GROUPS WEIGH IN
TO EPA
RESIDENTS TRAVEL
TO LONDON
HIDDEN
ALASKA



HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO SPEAK UP: EPA Meetings Planned for Newhalen & Dillingham

JUNE 1 • Newhalen Teen Center EPA Bristol Bay Update
7pm-9pm. EPA reps discuss progress on the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment & answer questions

June 2 • Nushagak River Community Visits EPA reps travelling by boat up the Nushagak to Ekwok, Koliganek and other villages to listen to concerns & answer questions.

June 3 • Dillingham Elem. School, EPA Bristol Bay Update 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. EPA reps discuss progress on the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment & answer questions

Mining Training Sessions presented by EPA and Alaska Department of Natural Resources. Information about regulatory roles in the environmental permitting process will be shared.

June 2, 8:30am-4:30pm, Newhalen Teen Center

June 3, 8:30am-5:30pm, BBNA Head Start Center, Dillingham

STAY INFORMED: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/ecocomm.nsf/bristol+bay/bristolbay>

WATERSHED ASSESSMENT: BRISTOL BAY ASKED FOR HELP, EPA IS LISTENING....

What started in Spring 2010 with a request to the EPA from 6 federally recognized tribes in Bristol Bay has blossomed into a giant and diverse coalition of interests calling for a stop to Pebble. Local support for EPA now includes the Bristol Bay Native Association, Bristol Bay Native Corporation, 8 tribes, nearly every commercial fishing organization in the state, and thousands of individuals. In addition to local groups, over 300 sportsmen groups, thousands of commercial fishermen, local and national businesses, over 200 chefs, and a conglomerate of jewelers have echoed that request, creating an unprecedented and diverse array of voices speaking out for Bristol Bay.

To put it simply, the support for EPA to protect Bristol Bay from large-scale mining proposals like Pebble Mine is overwhelming in the region and grows everyday in states where people know that Bristol Bay is a true national treasure and an economic engine.

We are gaining momentum and we are already making progress. On February 7, the EPA started a scientific assessment of the Bristol Bay watershed, paying special attention to understanding how future large-scale development projects may affect Bristol Bay's salmon fishery, the jobs and the subsistence lifestyle that it supports.

"The Bristol Bay watershed is essential to the health, environment and economy of Alaska," said EPA Regional Administrator Dennis McLerran.

"Gathering data and getting public input now, before development occurs, just makes sense. Doing this we can be assured that our future decisions are grounded in the best science and information and in touch with the needs of these communities. We look forward to working with Alaskans to protect and preserve this valuable resource."

The goals of the assessment are to answer the following questions:

- Is the Bristol Bay salmon fishery the one of a kind, world class fishery that it is depicted to be?
- What are the existing and potential risks to Bristol Bay's salmon fishery associated with large-scale development activities such as hard rock mining?
- Are there technologies or practices that will mitigate these risks?

In order to answer these questions, EPA will review and document all relevant literature, and talk to scientists and critical stakeholders about salmon habitat and jobs that the Bristol Bay watershed supports.

The EPA's watershed assessment is an important first step but it is only the beginning. If you care about Bristol Bay and would like to see the EPA prevent Pebble mine from dumping its waste into important Salmon spawning areas please take a moment to contact your elected officials and let them know that Pebble is the wrong mine in the wrong place.

TAKE ACTION NOW

While the EPA is considering this request, contact your Senators and ask them to send the message to the EPA that Bristol Bay is too important to put at risk. Let them know that you support initiating a 404(c) process in Bristol Bay to protect the fishery that we all depend on.

ALASKANS CONTACT:

Senator Mark Begich: (202) 224-3004

144 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Lisa Murkowski: (202)-224-6665

709 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

WASHINGTON RESIDENTS CONTACT:

Senator Maria Cantwell: (202)-224-3441

511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4704

Senator Patty Murray: (202) 224-2621

173 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

You can also visit: www.savebristolbay.org/takeaction

SCIENCE UPDATE

THE FRASER RIVER FALLACY

Ben Knight

by Dr. Carol Ann Woody

Cynthia Carroll, the Pebble Limited Partnership's CEO, recently came from London to assure Alaska's Resource Development Council that salmon and open pit copper sulfide mining really can coexist. This caused me to consider all similar copper mines I know in salmon habitat in case I had missed a thriving example of coexistence. Let's see ... Iron Mountain Mine? No. Leviathan Mine? No. Formosa Mine? No ... Perhaps this lack of U.S. examples is why proponents are touting Canada's Fraser River as a demonstration of open pit copper mining and salmon coexistence. But is it really such an example?

Last year's record high return of about 29 million sockeye to Canada's Fraser River did leave scientists scratching their heads. But, as noted by Jeffrey Young, aquatic scientist for B.C.'s David Suzuki Foundation, "One good day for the stock market doesn't mean the end of a recession." And make no mistake, Fraser River sockeye salmon are "in recession."

From 1956 to the early 1990s, annual Fraser River sockeye runs averaged about 8 million fish then began to decline. In six of the last 11 years, the sockeye fishery closed due to poor returns with TOTAL annual runs during 2007-2009 failing to exceed 2 million sockeye. Ninety-four Native communities that rely on Fraser sockeye for subsistence were encouraged by the Canadian government to develop a salmon-rationing plan in 2008, and subsistence harvest has been limited multiple years. So has sport harvest. Fraser River salmon declines triggered a \$15 million federal judicial inquiry that began in 2009, making last year's anomalous large run an as yet unexplained mystery. The probability of a similar large run to the Fraser in 2011 is practically zero.

In addition to abundance declines, Fraser River salmon biodiversity -- a crucial trait that helps sustain fisheries -- is also in decline. Of the many unique sockeye populations comprising the total Fraser sockeye run, one is critically endangered, three are endangered and

another is vulnerable to extinction. Cultus Lake sockeye, the "critically endangered" population, went from an average run of 50,000 fish (1950-1995) to fewer than 3,000 over the last decade; they are expected to go extinct within the next 100 years. I would be surprised if the others mentioned did not follow suit.

Mining, pulp mills, agriculture, forestry, roads and other development in the Fraser River watershed all cause water pollution and regular violations of water quality standards for copper, zinc, lead, cadmium, chromium and many other pollutants toxic to salmon. Pollution contributions by source, i.e., tracing the amount due to mining, is data the Canadian government does not readily share. So I ask you, is the hype around "coexistence" valid here? Would you bet Bristol Bay on it?

Alaska, I offer you Bristol Bay. Pride of ownership should warm you all, as it truly is the most amazing, prolific, diverse, healthy sockeye salmon run left on the planet. Since 1956, annual Bristol Bay sockeye salmon runs averaged 29 million fish, in contrast to Fraser River sockeye runs that averaged 7 million fish. And that paltry 29 million fish run last year? The highest ever recorded for the Fraser? Well, Bristol Bay's recent 40 million-plus annual sockeye salmon run helps put it all in perspective.

SALMON FOUND IN STREAMS ON TOP OF PEBBLE DEPOSIT

A recent report from Dr. Carol Ann Woody and the Nature Conservancy confirms what we have always suspected. Dr. Woody and her team documented fish in 98% of headwater streams of Bristol Bay directly within the Pebble deposit area and 3 out of 4 streams held salmon. **You can read the report at: http://www.nature.org/media/alaska/awc_dec_2010.pdf**

MARCH MADNESS: MORE THAN BASKETBALL

Unprecedented group of local leaders, Alaska Native elders, youth, chefs, commercial fishermen and business owners visit Juneau to talk Pebble

March Madness was more than basketball for those of us concerned with protecting Bristol Bay. Delegations of local residents, lodge owners, commercial fishermen, and chefs, visited our state and nation's capitols to educate lawmakers on the importance of Bristol Bay.

In Juneau, the group spent a week visiting with the legislature, and agency staff, reminding them that the EPA's assessment of the Bristol Bay watershed came at the request of a diverse local group of Alaskans. The week was highlighted by work with Alaska Youth for Environmental Action, including a BBQ that filled the streets of Juneau with scents of grilling Bristol Bay salmon. To end the week, the coalition put on a reception at the Rookery Café, where Chef Joel Chenet (Kodiak) prepared a range of wild salmon dishes and attendees got an advanced look at new photos from Nick Hall's Seasons of Subsistence series. As a wide array of Bristol Bay residents attended these events, we thought we'd get a few thoughts from Maureen (Mo) Knutsen, a commercial fisherman from the community of Naknek, on her impressions of the visit to Juneau.

Have you participated in a trip like this before?

Mo: No, This was my very first time going to Juneau to meet with legislators.

A week is a long time to spend away from home, what made you decide to make the trip down to Juneau?

Mo: I am very motivated to do whatever I can to help stop the threat of large-scale industrial mining to the environment of Bristol Bay & our salmon fishery because of the personal importance of the fishery to my husband & I. We depend on commercial fishing for our main source of income & subsistence fish & game for a large portion of our food. I welcomed the chance to get more involved by participating with the group in Juneau.

What was the message you brought to lawmakers in Juneau?

Mo: The message we brought to the legislators is that the type of development represented by the Pebble Mine is a very serious threat to an amazing, irreplaceable resource that has been sustaining & can continue to sustain the people of Bristol Bay for generations to come if we don't allow it to be destroyed for short-term interests. EPA has been



requested by local tribes, corporations & other groups representing a great many local people to help gather the best impartial scientific information needed to make a wise decision on this momentous issue.

Who made up the rest of your group down in Juneau?

Mo: Our group was a diverse representation of Bristol Bay residents including subsistence users from Nondalton, subsistence & commercial fishermen from Naknek & Dillingham (some representing a 4th generation), a lodge owner, and a professional chef, all of whom have a strong interest in protecting our salmon resource.

How were you received in your visits in the Capitol?

Mo: We were very well received and were able to meet with quite a few legislators despite their busy schedules. Regardless of where they may have been on the Pebble issue, nearly all the legislators we met with were appreciative of the information about EPA's assessment, and we were all able to agree that gathering independent science on Bristol Bay will help inform future decisions.

Was this the trip was worthwhile?

Mo: I feel the trip was very effective because the face-to-face meetings had a strong impact for me. I think it also makes an impact on legislators to see & hear average citizens voicing their concerns on important issues, especially when they have to travel a distance to do so. Juneau definitely heard our message that Bristol Bay is too important to put at risk!

Maureen (Mo) Knutsen
Naknek, AK



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

COOKING FOR BRISTOL BAY

Chef Joël Chenet of Kodiak, also spent a week in Juneau, not just educating lawmakers about Bristol Bay's delicious salmon, but feeding them too! Recently named an "Ambassador of Sustainable Seafood" by California's Monterey Bay Aquarium Chenet now uses his expertise and love for sustainable seafood to promote the protection of the Bristol Bay fishery that supports many of his hometown fishermen.



BRISTOL BAY RESIDENTS CHALLENGE PEBBLE EXPLORATION IN COURT

After two years of investigating and litigating the constitutionality of the State's exploration and temporary water use permits for the Pebble Project, the two-week Pebble trial concluded on December 17, 2010. Superior Court Judge Eric Aarseth has begun his deliberations, and ordered the parties to submit post-trial proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law by mid-March. This means a ruling probably won't be issued until late April.

During the trial, hundreds of documents were introduced as evidence in the trial and 50 hours of testimony was taken from scientific experts, Native residents that use the

area for subsistence, a driller's assistant who viewed the impacts of the exploration activities, a hunting guide who can no longer use the area for his guiding business because of the Pebble Project, and state and Pebble Limited Partnership employees.

The plaintiffs in the lawsuit are Nunamta Aulukestai; Rick Delkittie, an Alaska Native and resident of Nondalton; Violet Willson, a resident of Naknek; former Alaska First Lady Bella Hammond; and Alaska Constitutional Convention Delegate, and constitutional scholar, Victor Fischer.

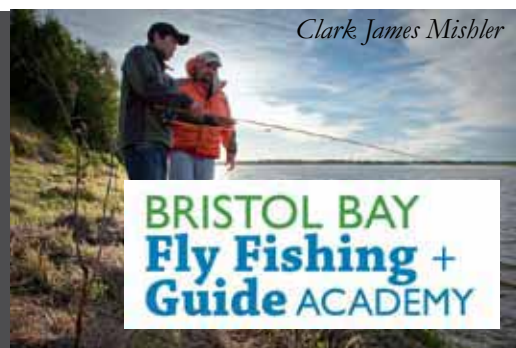
LEARNING TO FLY FISH LEADS TO MORE LOCAL JOBS

This spring, as millions of Bristol Bay salmon begin the home stretch of their massive migration back, many of us will be in a flurry getting our gear ready for the busy summer salmon season. For twelve Bristol Bay young residents, fishing nets will be traded for fly rods and reels as they spend an action packed week exploring what it takes to pursue a career as a fly fishing guide or lodge owner on Bristol Bay's fine fishing rivers.

The Bristol Bay Fly Fishing and Guide Academy, in its third year, will be held May 29 – June 5th at the Bear Trail Lodge on the Naknek River. Participants learn from long-time Bristol Bay resident and lodge owner Nanci Morris Lyon and Ekwok elder Luki Akelkok how to fly fish, what its like to be a guide or own a lodge, river conservation issues, how the knowledge of a local guide can create a unique experience for visiting anglers, and much more.

"As more local young people are equipped and excited to pursue careers in the sport fishing world, local lodges are taking notice and are becoming increasingly interested in hiring their guides locally," explained Nelli Williams with Trout Unlimited, one of the Academy's organizers, "And that's what the Academy is all about – giving local young people the skills and tools they need to explore a sustainable salmon-based career on their home rivers. Bottom line – healthy salmon runs mean more local jobs."

Check out the Bristol Bay Fly Fishing and Guide Academy on Facebook or at www.bbflyfishingacademy.org for stories from the river and details about the 2012 course.



BRISTOL BAY STAKEHOLDERS TRAVEL TO LONDON TO MEET WITH RIO TINTO AND ANGLO AMERICAN

Rio Tinto Meetings

In April 2011, the international campaign against the Pebble Mine moved to London. First, representatives from the campaign travelled to London for a meeting with Rio Tinto's Chief Executive Tom Albanese, as well as the Rio Tinto annual shareholder meeting. There, the delegation stressed three main points: (1) that the proposed mega-mine poses an unacceptable risk to the wild salmon fishery that has sustained the communities of Bristol Bay for generations; (2) that the project is overwhelmingly opposed by over 80 percent of the region's residents; and (3) that the project can't be reconciled with Rio Tinto's own standards on social and environmental responsibility. Albanese expressed his own doubts about the current proposed open pit design for the mine, suggesting that further study of an underground design would be preferable.

NRDC also delivered almost 60,000 petitions of opposition to Rio Tinto. This brings the total number of petitions of opposition to the corporate backers of Pebble Mine to over 300,000 in the past 12 months.

A full-page ad from eight organizations appeared in the London Financial Times on the day of the Rio Tinto shareholder meeting. The headline read "Rio Tinto: Talk is cheap," then cautioned Rio Tinto's shareholders to "watch what Rio Tinto does, not what it says." The ad urged the company to withdraw from the Pebble project. One week later, NRDC ran an ad in the New York Times featuring Robert Redford, who called national attention to the Pebble Mine as "an environmental tragedy waiting to happen" and urged Rio Tinto and Anglo American to follow Mitsubishi's suit and withdraw from the Pebble project.

Anglo American Meetings

The following week, the delegation met directly with Anglo American's CEO and Chairman of the Board, and attended the company's shareholder meeting. Russell Nelson, Chairman of the BBNC Land and Resources Committee, delivered BBNC's message that Pebble Mine does not meet the corporation's definition of responsible resource development. "Pebble Mine project is a bad investment. There's too much opposition; it's too big; and it's in the wrong place.

This position was echoed by Nunamta Aulukestai, which called on Cynthia Carroll to honor her promise and pull out of the Pebble Project. "Cynthia Carroll has repeatedly promised that the company wouldn't proceed with the mine if it doesn't have the support of local communities," said Nunamta spokesperson Bobby Andrew. He emphasized that even the company's own survey, completed by the Tarrance Group on December 6-10, 2009, showed 79% of Bristol Bay residents oppose

the Project.

BBNC and Nunamta were joined by Bob Waldrop, executive director of the Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association who represents 2,000 small businesses and their 4,000 employees who are employed in the Bristol Bay commercial fishing industry. "The fishermen are putting their full weight against this project," said Waldrop. "The Pebble mine puts productive salmon habitat - the very foundation of our industry - at risk."

Anglo American's chairman Sir John Parker said he understood the concerns over the project, but continued to assert that it's premature to make a decision. He also stated that he intended to travel to Alaska when his schedule permits it. The Alaskans trip gained widespread media attention, with newspaper headlines throughout the U.K. reporting, "Alaska Gold Mine Plans Too Risky."

Rio Tinto: Talk is cheap.

Don't destroy Alaska's wild salmon paradise.

According to Rio Tinto, "good community relations around our projects and respect for the environment are key to our success."

Watch what Rio Tinto does, not what it says.

Rio Tinto is backing a scheme to construct one of the world's largest open-pit and gold mines, the proposed Pebble Mine, in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed - where grizzly wild bears have sustained Native communities for thousands of years.

Imagine a pit two miles wide and 2,000 feet deep, and an underground mine a mile deep, at the headwaters of the wild salmon river and stream system that feeds Bristol Bay itself. The mine would produce an estimated 10 billion tons of contaminated waste. Imagine at least five dams - some taller than the Three Gorges Dam in China - that would be constructed to hold back that waste forever. Now imagine all this in an active earthquake zone at the headwaters of the largest wild salmon system on the world. It's a disaster waiting to happen.

The Pebble Mine is opposed by nearly 80% of Bristol Bay residents.

The growing challenge to stop the disaster in the making is led by Native village and regional organizations, associations, and tribes from around Bristol Bay. They've partnered with commercial and recreational fishermen, scientists, and conservation groups to protect the thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars that come from Bristol Bay's economic engine: wild salmon.

Today, Rio Tinto is holding its annual shareholder meeting in London.

Do Rio Tinto's shareholders really want to share in this risk? Are they ready to ignore the Native people of Bristol Bay who overwhelmingly oppose the mine? Are they prepared for the year-long fight the coalition will wage to stop the mine? Is this a sound financial investment?

In February, Mitsubishi Corporation will be listed in the Pebble Mine.

The bottom line: The Pebble Mine will be a disaster for Rio Tinto.
Go to www.StopPebble.org and tell Rio Tinto to abandon Pebble Mine now

Logos for NRDC, Sierra Club, and other organizations are visible at the bottom.

KEY GROUPS URGE EPA TO PROTECT BRISTOL BAY: FROM THE FOOD COMMUNITY TO INVESTORS

This spring chefs, restaurateurs, fish buyers, and food lovers from across the country called on the EPA to use its authority under the Clean Water Act to protect Bristol Bay, Alaska's wild salmon fishery from the dangers of the proposed Pebble Mine. At a press conference at Equinox Restaurant down the street from the white house, chefs delivered a letter urging EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson to protect Bristol Bay signed by over 200 people - including Chefs Tom Colicchio, Alice Waters, Mark Bittman, Barton Seaver and Nora Pouillon - sent a letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, urging her to take action and protect one of our nation's last wild foods. This event coincided with over 20 DC-area restaurants featuring wild Bristol Bay salmon on their menus and distributing Bristol Bay outreach materials as part of the promotion. The culminating event of the week was a Savor Bristol Bay reception on the Hill, co-sponsored by Senator Maria Cantwell and Senator Mark Begich. At the event, keynote speaker Paul Greenberg, New York Times bestselling author of *Four Fish: The Future of the Last Wild Food*, spoke to the values of Bristol Bay's salmon and the urgent need to protect Bristol Bay's fisheries.

Also, this spring nearly 30 investor organizations representing over \$170 billion in assets sent a letter in April, urging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to initiate the 404(c) review process for Pebble. The investors, led by Trillium Asset Management Corp. (Trillium) and Calvert Investments (Calvert), hold over 13 million shares in Anglo American plc, the UK-based mining company behind the proposed mine. "The potential impact of this project and the national importance of Bristol Bay means review under Section



“Ecosystem degradation is of serious concern to investors...responsible resource development is critical to all economic, environmental and cultural stakeholders.” Stu Dalheim, Director of Shareholder Advocacy at Calvert.

404(c) of the Clean Water Act is warranted,” said Jonas Kron, vice president of Trillium.

The investor organizations lend an important voice of support to the Alaska Tribes, native corporations and commercial fishermen who have petitioned the EPA to use its authority under the Clean Water Act to protect the Bristol Bay fishery.

To read the full letter, go to <http://trilliuminvest.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/Investor-Statement-on-the-Proposed-Pebble-Mine.pdf>

MITSUBISHI SELLS ITS INTEREST IN PEBBLE MINE



In February 2011, Mitsubishi sold its 11% interest in Northern Dynasty Minerals (the Canadian corporation that is working with Anglo American and Rio Tinto to develop the Pebble Mine project) as part of a review of its global copper asset portfolio. This news follows a meeting from last June when NRDC's Senior Attorney, Joel Reynolds, met with the CEO of Mitsubishi's mining division and other senior management, delivered almost 10,000 petitions of opposition to Mitsubishi and urged the company to withdraw from the Pebble project because of its environmental, economic and social risks. While the impact on the future of the Pebble Mine remains unclear, Mitsubishi's divestiture is important as we increase pressure on Anglo American and Rio Tinto to do the same.

In October of 2010, 20 young leaders ages 13-18 from around Alaska came together and created a statewide campaign to protect Wild Alaska Salmon. The teens all came from different backgrounds and communities but were brought together by their shared values and belief that “wild salmon sustains our lifestyles, economies, and our Alaskan identities.” Based on this common belief, the teens developed a plan to raise awareness about the threats, such as Pebble Mine, currently facing wild salmon. One of the items they worked on was urging our leaders to place our healthy, sustainable, and economically rich fisheries above non-renewable resource extraction, specifically in Bristol Bay. **Read more at www.ayea.org or www.renewableresourcesfoundation.org**



ALASKA YOUTH FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION SPEAK FOR WILD SALMON

This newsletter was published with support from the following groups that work to protect Bristol Bay. Want more? Check out websites below and www.savebristolbay.org.

QUESTIONS?

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www.nunamta.org



www.alaskaconservation.org



www.sportsmansalliance4ak.org



www.savebristolbay.org



www.bbrsda.com



www.renewableresourcescoalition.org



www.nrdc.com

HIDDEN ALASKA: BRISTOL BAY AND BEYOND

The author and photographer of *Hidden Alaska: Bristol Bay and Beyond* have been busy promoting their new work, published recently by National Geographic Books.

Although, primarily a photographic journey, *Hidden Alaska* includes essays that take a look at all of Alaska - people and politics as well as its stunning landscapes. It features Bristol Bay because it is a part of Alaska that many people are unfamiliar with, a region described by the authors as a true microcosm of all that remains unique and wild about Alaska. In the introduction, the author says the book is not about what might happen but about what is, that ultimately it is a work of hope, “hope that this place will remain wild. It is a work whose purpose is to be a record not of what we may potentially lose, but rather of what can still be saved.”



Noted photographer Michael Melford participated in the “Masters of Photography” series and gave a presentation at National Geographic Headquarters in Washington DC. He has also appeared on a number of radio shows, including National Geographic Weekend. Alaskan author Dave Atcheson, who wrote the text for the book, has been making his way across the 49th State, giving readings accompanied by a slide show that features Melford’s work, along with historical photographs supplied by those he interviewed for the text. *Hidden Alaska: Bristol Bay and Beyond* is now available in bookstores, with a portion of the royalties going toward the fight to protect Bristol Bay.



Mark Your Calendars and find Salmonstock on Facebook to learn more.