depth and zone that you caught fish during the prime time as a starting point. After you fish this zone through than slide out and down.

Another assumption many anglers make is that inactive fish need a very passive presentation. Here is what I have found; jigging aggressively often turns fish around. Passive and presentations work don't get me wrong and my go to way for catching walleyes during the day is to downsize to really small lures but what so often happens is that you can drop down right next to a fish and the fish is pointed the wrong direction where the lure is not in front of the fish. When you really pound that lure hard above the fish, you can often get the fish to move and turn enough where they can than see the lure. That is why pounding and lifting works so well when fish drift off your presentation. So often at that point, you are behind the fish where they can't see you and the only way to turn that fish around is through vibration.

Understanding these windows of activity and having some strategy in how you fish a spot through as the day wears on can really improve how many fish you catch and this mentality and strategy is widely universal applying to many different species of fish on a wide variety of water.

Save Bristol Bay

Editor's note: Each month the Outdoor Connection tab will feature a column by Recycled Fish, a nonprofit organization founded by Teeg Stouffer in 2003. Originally a Catch and Release education organization, it is now a national movement of anglers who live and promote a lifestyle of stewardship both on and off the water.

BY BEN LEAL
RECYCLED FISH PROGRAM DIRECTOR

No place in the United States offers anglers from all over the world such a variety of opportunities to catch trophy fish as Alaska. Aficionados of both hard and open water frequent this great state where angling opportunities abound. World-class, abundant, an angler's paradise; these are just a few ways to describe the recreational opportunities that the rivers and streams in the Bristol Bay watershed provide for anglers of all types.

Alaska's Bristol Bay is the place you're thinking of when you're thinking of the world's greatest salmon fishery. It is the last place in the world where wild salmon still make gigantic, healthy runs. Not supplemented by hatcheries or precariously computer model managed to keep from tipping into

extinction like in the Pacific Northwest, but giant wild runs that support a vibrant commercial and sport fishing industry. These Bristol Bay salmon drive a sustainable global food supply - and the way of life for a native people.

There are trophy rainbow trout, arctic char and grayling, and under-sung species like northern pike and lake trout. Those vibrant fisheries support a thriving ecosystem that includes grizzly bears, moose, caribou and bald eagles. Not to mention a strong commercial and sport-fishing economy, and a way of life for native Alaskans that stretches back for centuries.

Pebble Mine threatens this amazing place. The Pebble deposit is a storehouse of gold, copper and molybdenum located in the headwaters of the Kvichak and Nushagak Rivers, the two most prolific of Bristol Bay's river systems. If Pebble Mine were to be built, this gargantuan open-pit mine, the largest ever built in North America, would pose a near-certain risk of polluting Bristol Bay.

We could lose the world's last great wild salmon stronghold, which supports 14,000 jobs and an annual $500 million commercial and sport fishery. This is not

Recycled Fish is working to help ensure that Bristol Bay remains in its pristine state.

Photo by Brian O'Keefe

just an Alaska issue; Pebble Mine would devastate the tourism-driven economy, created by sportsmen from around the world who travel there to fish and hunt. Alaska

needs the help and support of anglers in the lower 48.

As part of the Recycled Fish "On Ice" Tour, we are raising awareness for Bristol Bay and the risks posed by

Pebble Mine. Please raise your voice to support Bristol Bay right now. Learn more and sign on against Pebble Mine at www.savebristolbay.org.