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## **Pebble Mine Project Public Comment:**

The Aleutians East Borough Assembly met in False Pass on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 and unanimously approved [Resolution 19-59](#) opposing the Pebble Mine Project near Iliamna. In his letter accompanying the resolution submitted June 11<sup>th</sup> as public comment on the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), Mayor Alvin Osterback stated:

“Any proposed alternative with potential to cause direct or indirect damage to salmon stocks, is unacceptable and not in the best interest of our communities. After reviewing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), the AEB would like to formally express its opposition to the Pebble Mine project as proposed.”

The Resolution cited the following as reasons for the Borough’s opposition to the Pebble Project:

- The potential impacts of the proposed mine to communities and fishermen of the Aleutians East Borough are not fully analyzed, if at all, in the DEIS.
- The possibility of a proposed project mine tailings storage facility failure cannot be eliminated and would be devastating to salmon habitat in Bristol Bay.
- The only alternative presented in the DEIS for the proposed Pebble project that will have zero impacts on Aleutians East Borough fishermen and fisheries is the No Action alternative.

There are over 60,000 public comments on the DEIS submitted to the US Army Corps of Engineers and posted on the website [www.pebbleprojecteis.com](http://www.pebbleprojecteis.com). The public comment period closes July 1 and the final EIS is expected to be released in early 2020.

## **North Pacific Council - June 2019:**

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council met this month in Sitka, AK for the 16<sup>th</sup> time since 1978, the last time being in 2015. There were several contentious issues on the

agenda including *C2 – Final Action on Modifications to Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Trawl Pollock & Pacific Cod Seasonal Allocations*. This action would provide flexibility for trawl fishermen in the GOA and was widely supported as recently as the last meeting in April. However, several fishermen from Kodiak had a change of heart just prior to the June meeting and opposed the action, preferring to hold out for a more comprehensive GOA trawl management program or some type of rationalization program.

The Council did take final action on C2 and combined the A & B pollock seasons into one season starting January 20 running through May 31 and combined the C & D seasons into one, September 1 through November 1. The Council moved the fall start date from August 25 to September 1, a change that should be particularly helpful for western GOA fishermen and processors involved in both salmon and pollock fisheries.

For GOA Pacific Cod, the Council moved 4% more trawl cod into the A season from the B season, a move that should allow more cod harvest during periods of high roe content and lower bycatch rates of prohibited species.

Action on *D5 – IFQ Access Opportunities* a short 12-page discussion paper, generated some debate as well. The Council decided to move forward with an expanded discussion paper that considers establishing an ‘Access Pool’ of halibut and sablefish quota shares for entry level fishermen. The access pool would be funded initially with 1% newly created quota and potentially future funded through a small fee on each transfer of quota thereafter.

Possibly the most contentious issue was *D3 – Aleutian Islands Pacific Cod Set-Aside*, that seemingly pitted litigants on either side of the recent court decision that struck down Amendment 113. The Council rejected a request for emergency action to temporarily reinstate the rule and the NPFMC Advisory Panel (AP) ended up with 2 failed motions for their work. The Council requested a discussion of the issue be addressed in the BSAI Pcod Trawl Catcher Vessel Management scoping paper that is scheduled for October. Advocates for the community of Adak are now looking to Congress to enact legislation that would reinstate the 5000 mt cod set-aside.

The relatively benign agenda item *D2 – BSAI Cod Allocation Review* resulted in one motion to accept the report, and a motion that would look at the impacts of a future rationalization plan on other sectors, and outlining the process for reallocating cod.

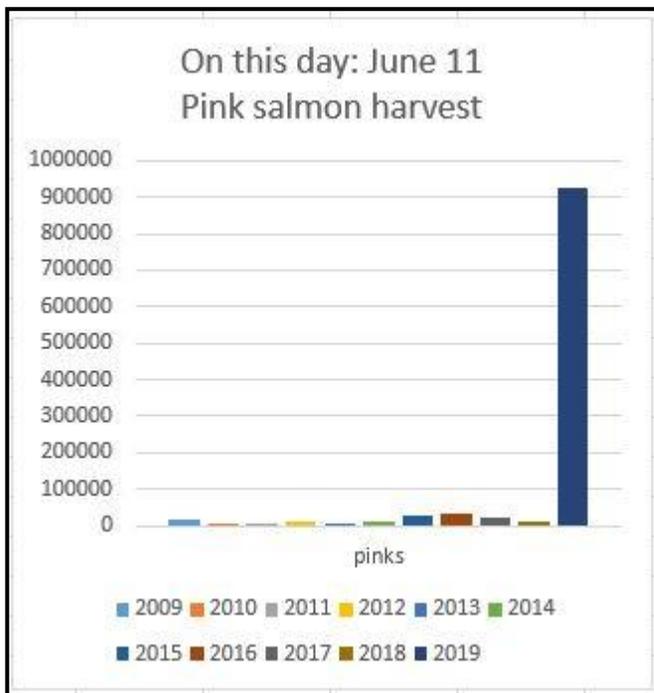
Another final action *C6 – CQE Fish-up in Halibut Area 3A* also resulted in only a failed motion at the AP. The Council decided to allow community quota entity (CQE) residents fishing CQE held quota in halibut area 3A to fish D class quota on either D class vessels ( $\leq 35$  ft LOA) or beginning August 15 of each year, on C class vessels ( $\leq 60$  ft LOA). CQEs in areas 3b and 4B can already ‘fish-up’ their D class quota.

The June meeting was the last for Council Members Theresa Peterson and Buck Laukitis. In October, Cora Campbell and Nicole Kimball will take those seats at the table.

## Salmon Season Updates:

The 2019 Area M salmon season is underway. South Peninsula setnet fishermen started it off with a 64-hour opening beginning 6AM June 6 and all gear types participated in the first 88 hour opening beginning 6AM June 10. This season marks the reestablishment of synchronized openings and closures for all South Peninsula salmon fishing gear groups, resulting in an increase of 72% of closed windows with no fishing gear in South Peninsula waters over last year's June season. This year is also the first year that the 'Dolgoi area' is closed to seining during the month of June. Both of these management changes came about at the February Board of Fisheries meeting to assuage Chignik fishery advocates. Chignik sockeye escapement is up from last year, but still quite low. The first commercial salmon fishing period in Chignik may occur when 20,000 sockeye have escaped or are expected to escape into the Chignik river.

The forecast for 2019 South Peninsula pink salmon calls for one of the largest pink salmon runs ever for the region (total run estimate 24.6 million), and the early 2019 pink salmon returns are off the charts.



### Chignik Weir Report

Sockeye Escapement		Sockeye Harvest	
Yesterday's	1,869	Yesterday's	0
Total	6,249	Total	0

**For June 11, 2019**

#### Area M Salmon Harvest Summary

COMMERCIAL SALMON HARVEST SUMMARY  
(INSEASON HARVEST ESTIMATES)

Species	Daily Harvest	Total Through June 11, 2019
Chinook	329	508
Sockeye	40,910	73,634
Coho	232	416
Pink	708,531	926,079
Chum	17,661	26,430
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>767,663</b>	<b>1,027,067</b>

**Narrative:**  
Catch estimates are based on inseason processor reports, and will be updated as additional information and fishtickets become available.

#### Estimated Salmon Catch to Date, by Geographic Area

June 11, 2019

Geographic Area	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
<b>South Peninsula</b>					
Post June Cold Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Post June Thin Point Section	0	0	0	0	0
Post June Morzhovoi Bay to South Unimak	0	0	0	0	0
Post June Shumagin Islands	0	0	0	0	0
Southeastern District Mainland	0	0	0	0	0
Northwest Stepovak Section (7/1-7/25)	0	0	0	0	0
Dolgoi Island Area <sup>1</sup>	0	1,179	0	270	13
Dolgoi Island Area <sup>2</sup>	0	0	0	0	0
June Shumagin Islands	123	20,675	10	248,206	7,927
June South Unimak	277	51,625	406	677,603	18,490
June South Unimak & Shumagin Islands	400	72,300	416	925,809	26,417
<b>Total South Peninsula</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>73,479</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>926,079</b>	<b>26,430</b>
<b>North Peninsula</b>					
Northwestern District	0	0	0	0	0
Black Hills	0	0	0	0	0
Nelson Lagoon	108	155	0	0	0
Moller and Herendeen Bays	0	0	0	0	0
Port Moller to Outer Port Heiden*	0	0	0	0	0
Inner Port Heiden	0	0	0	0	0
Cinder River	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total North Peninsula</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Aleutian Islands</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL AREA M</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>73,634</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>926,079</b>	<b>26,430</b>

All harvest information provided in this report is preliminary and subject to change. The most recent daily harvest report supersedes any previous harvest reports.  
\* Confidential information  
<sup>1</sup> Harvest before the 191,000 sockeye salmon harvest limit is reached, per fish ticket information.  
<sup>2</sup> Harvest in remaining open waters after the 191,000 sockeye salmon harvest limit is reached.

6/12/2019

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