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Bristol Bay News/Events Roundup

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June 21, 2007

Bristol Bay Rallies = SUCCESS!!



Over 1,000 commercial fishermen and local residents attended the two big rallies in Dillingham on June 10 and another in Naknek on June 16. The events revealed solid levels of existing support and also helped build new interest for protecting renewable assets of the Bay. Almost 300 locals signed a letter to Governor Palin asking her to protect the area's resources from large scale mining. RRC gained 204 new members.

Volunteers at the Dillingham turnout served over 600 meals - easily more than twice the wildest estimates anyone made prior to the rally. The weather was near perfect so the entire event was held outside - a blessing. Live music turned up unexpectedly from New Stuyahok. They played while people got information, signed letters to the Governor, and bought hats, T-shirts, and boat flags. Norman Van Vactor did a fabulous job as MC and introduced each of the 7 speakers - tying the whole thing together nicely. Our speakers included Mayor Alice Ruby, Hjalmar Olson, Chairman, BBNC, Tom Tilden, Curyung tribal chief, Dr. Carol Ann Woody, Fisheries Biologist, Verner Wilson and Bryce Edgmon, State Representative. Both Hjalmar Olson and Bryce Edgmon talked about the potential damages from the mine.

Robin Samuelsen went last and gave a very powerful message about the need to speak out now and speak out loudly. He told a story about asking his grandkids what they thought about the mine. Without hesitation the kids said in unison - No Mine! Robin then said, "if 6- and 8-year-olds can figure it out, we should be able to figure it out too and speak up." He also told a story about a Canadian fishing seafood company that recently ran off and hid behind a legal screen without paying fishermen. The message - beware glamorous promises from foreign developers.

The rally team then packed up and went to Naknek, a much smaller community said to be a stronghold for Northern Dynasty. Izetta Chambers and her family did much of the preparation, turning out over 400 local residents and commercial fishermen to hear short presentations from Violet Wilson (community elder), her grandson, Everett Thompson (commercial fisherman), David Harsila (AIFMA), Hjalmar Olson, Bryce Edgmon, John Lowrance (salmon processor), Mel Brown (BBNC Board) and Dr. Carol Ann Woody. All gave strong statements from differing perspectives about negative impacts from mining and how they imperil existing commercial and subsistence activities. In Naknek, the large community turnout surprised local residents, strengthening opposition to mining in the Bristol Bay watershed.

In the end, both rallies successfully demonstrated the strength and solidity of opposition to large scale mining in the area. Fishermen and the community members saw how many of their neighbors and colleagues feel the same way. Local commitment to mining opposition is now even stronger and better informed. Most major salmon processing companies are now distributing our materials and displaying the new 3x5' anti-Pebble flags on their tenders (116 vessels). More than 1,000 pennants were distributed for individual fishing boats. Flags, buttons, yard signs, stickers and pennants are ubiquitous in the region. Thanks to all of the volunteers who are making a real difference in their communities!

Check out [Bristol Bay Native Association's website](#) for more info on the rally!

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Bristol Bay fishermen stage two rallies to protest Pebble

*by Margaret Bauman
Alaska Journal of Commerce
June 17, 2007*

Bristol Bay commercial fishermen concerned about a proposed massive copper, gold, silver and molybdenum mine in Southwest Alaska planned to rally in Naknek June 16 to protest the project.

Peter Pan Seafoods was to donate fresh king salmon from Dillingham for the event. Speakers were to include John Lowrance of Leader Creek Fisheries and David Harsila of the Alaska Independent Fishermen's Marketing Association.

To view article in its entirety, please click on
http://www.alaskajournal.com/stories/061707/fis_20070617007.shtml

Pebble to the people: Both sides want your support - but the decision isn't up to you

*by Monica Bradbury
Anchorage Press
June 14, 2007*

Unnaturally red, rusty-looking waters lap over dismal gray stones. A few dried up blades of grass stick out from between jagged rocks and rotting wood. A sad, worn face appears on the television screen. She talks about how the landscape has changed, how the water is now poison. And then she begs you not to let the same thing happen here.

To view article in its entirety, please go to
www.anchoragepress.com and click on "Recent Issues" or type
208.109.242.142/site/basicarticle.asp?ID=157 in your browser.

Setback for mine a challenge for state

*by Tim Bradner
Economy
Anchorage Daily News
June 10, 2007*

Mining offers a lot of potential for Alaska. This should be of some comfort for us, given concerns about our economy and the uncertainties about a natural gas pipeline. Generally, things are going well with the large producing mines in the state and, with one glaring exception, several new mines being developed.

To view article in its entirety, please click on
<http://www.adn.com/money/story/8965562p-8881264c.html>

Letters to the Editor

LTE - Mining could be the salvation for Alaska's future economy

Scott Thorson - Anchorage
Anchorage Daily News
June 19, 2007

<http://www.adn.com/opinion/letters/story/9030118p-8945743c.html>

Alaska is facing an uncertain economic future. I hope the gas line will move forward, but recent events seem to indicate that project could be further down the line than we'd all like to think. Our visitor industry is facing extreme competition from other destinations. But these are not the extent of our big, self-induced problems. I'm truly concerned about what is happening to the mining industry.

Alaska's roots are in mining. Many of our towns, most of the roads and many of the trails we enjoy were originally built to support some kind of mining operation. Here we are facing serious hurdles with some of the best job-generating prospects in the state.

The Pebble project in particular is a real concern. Pebble's ore body is still being defined and inventoried. This project is already providing more than 100 jobs to local residents in a region of the state that sorely needs these jobs. I hope all Alaskans will support this project as it moves forward, especially Alaskans in Anchorage. Who are we, who have good jobs to go to each day, to deny a rural region of the state the same opportunity to good wages and solid employment?

Once operational, Pebble will employ more people than Prudhoe Bay. This could be a real bright spot on our economic horizon.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The writer is a board member of Truth About Pebble.

LTE - Even Jay Hammond would frown on claims of game refuge purpose

Jack Polster - Homer
Anchorage Daily News
June 18, 2007

<http://www.adn.com/opinion/letters/story/9028314p-8943903c.html>

In a state strangled by governmental land ownership and control, one strangely finds an effort by a small group of Alaskans to further tighten the socialistic noose by seeking legislation which would effectively further restrict economic activity.

Some supporters of a proposed Jay Hammond State Game Refuge deny any connection exists between their effort and the would-be-affected Pebble mine. Even Hammond is frowning at that one. He is remembered as being the honest politician of his time; while Juneau's drunken sailors spent their constituents' royalty paycheck he called for savings.

Recognizing that suspicions of a less-than-honest present-day congressional delegation and state Legislature are being fulfilled, one would hope for better from their constituents, those who support the Jay Hammond State Game Refuge.

LTE - People living in Bush need jobs; Pebble mine will need people

Ginger Johnson, Truth About Pebble board member - Juneau

Anchorage Daily News

June 17, 2007

<http://www.adn.com/opinion/letters/story/9006653p-8922114c.html>

I was pleased to see that Gov. Sarah Palin is calling for more job growth in Bush communities where unemployment is high and economic opportunity is sparse. The development of the Pebble mine project is right in line with the governor's remarks. Pebble will create more than 1,000 high-paying jobs. The jobs will last for decades. Alaskans in the Bristol Bay region will have the opportunity to stay home while learning new skills, supporting their families and contributing to the local economy.

To stand against this project at this point in time is premature. Northern Dynasty, the company proposing to develop the project, is still in the preliminary stages of creating a plan. They are spending millions of dollars on environmental studies and are already employing many Alaskans who otherwise might not be working.

There are strict laws that must be followed for any mine to be built. Pebble will require 67 different permits. There are processes in place to ensure that developments like Pebble mine are safe.

We need to allow companies to follow those processes. If they are successful, all Alaskans, especially those in rural places like Bristol Bay, will benefit from newly created jobs.

LTE - Mining in Western Alaska will destroy resources, people

Lucy Weedman - New Stuyahok

Anchorage Daily News

June 15, 2007

<http://www.adn.com/opinion/letters/story/8978547p-8893985c.html>

Gov. Sarah Palin's visit to New Stuyahok was a humbling and nurturing experience. This proves that our governor does care for all Alaskans ("Bush jobs must be created, Palin says," June 3).

Palin's visit was limited; a few people got the chance to voice their concerns, which were regarding education, public safety and health, energy and the devastating effects of mining in our backyard.

In Alaska, 60 percent to 90 percent of our people live below the poverty level, which makes families dependent on state and federal welfare programs.

The cost of living has risen and won't go back down in the rural communities. This makes subsistence living vital. The subsistence foods that our people rely on are the five

salmon species that spawn in our waters.

Mining is endangering that way of life. Northern Dynasty promised thousands of jobs, for what? Maybe 50 years? As one individual has pointed out, in Bristol Bay there are over 5,000 fishermen; that's not counting families who didn't make commercial fishing their trade. What of them and their descendants?

Allowing mining in backyards of Alaska will make our poverty levels so high that our problems of today will seem minor. The lifestyles of our people will be no more, and for what? A resource that is not renewable. Our fish and game and most importantly our people are the renewable resources. Let's take care of them and they will take care of you.

LTE - Who are the real friends of Bristol Bay?

By Lucy Weedman - New Stuyahok

Bristol Bay Times

June 14, 2007

http://www.alaskanewspapers.com/content/pdf/BT_6-14-07.pdf

Nunumta Aulukestai, or Caretakers of Our Land, Renewable Resources Coalition and Robert Gillam are certainly best friends to Bristol Bay. These groups and individuals made it their business to know what mining is and to tell the truth.

Northern Dynasty, on the other hand, claims that it has done its homework. Therefore, we need to leave them alone, let due process take place, they've got the biggest and safest mine to construct.

What does that tell you? Who's telling lies? Who's buying their way into the pockets of state and local officials including our people who once before questioned what Northern Dynasty Mines was doing?

Northern Dynasty Mines is a foreign company from Canada, erupted out of nowhere,

never mined a mine before, and they say they are going to build one of the safest and biggest mines in the world because they have technological analysis on their side. Northern Dynasty Mines also plans to construct the biggest and safest dam that even Mother Nature can't damage, to dump their toxins into.

And guess what? The dam is located right at the heart of where our most prized salmon species spawn.

Now, who is telling the truth? Who are our friends? Who should you trust: Northern Dynasty Mines or the friends of Bristol Bay?

LTE - Pebble could be bright spot

By Scott Thorson - Anchorage

Peninsula Clarion

June 13, 2007

http://www.peninsulaclarion.com/stories/061307/letters_20070613002.shtml

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Alaska is facing an uncertain economic future. I hope the gas line will move forward, but recent events seem to indicate that project could be farther down the line than we'd all like to think. Our visitor industry is facing extreme competition from other destinations, and we are not doing much to support it when we pass taxes and other provisions like we did in a recent statewide election.

But these are not the extent of our big, self-induced problems.

I'm truly concerned about what is happening to the mining industry. Alaska's roots are in mining. Many of our towns, most of the roads and many of the trails we enjoy were originally built to support some kind of mining operation. Here we are facing serious hurdles with some of the best job-generating prospects in the state Donlin Creek, Kensington and Pebble.

The Pebble project in particular is a real concern. Pebble's ore body is still being defined and inventoried. This project is already providing more than 100 jobs to local residents in a region of the state that sorely needs these jobs. I hope all Alaskans will support this project as it moves forward, especially those in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau. Who are we, who have good jobs to go to each day, to deny a rural region of the state the same opportunity to good wages and solid employment?

Once operational, Pebble will employ more people than Prudhoe Bay. This could be a real bright spot on our economic horizon.

*** (Letter was also published in the Bristol Bay Times. Thorson, a past president of the Resource Development Council and president of Network Business Systems, is a board member with the Truth About Pebble organization.)*

Around Alaska and Beyond

Alaska's fishermen gain new title

*by Laine Welch
Homer Tribune
June 20, 2007*

Alaska salmon fishermen are now officially classified by the federal government as agricultural producers. As "farmers of the sea," they can be included in various programs under the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's Farm Bill, The bill is revised every five years and policies established in this latest version will last through 2012. With a budget of nearly \$95 billion the USDA is the nation's premier food agency, and as the many measures in the Farm Bill are tweaked this year by Congress, fishermen need to make sure their ideas and needs are included.

To view article in its entirety, please click on
<http://www.homertribune.com/article.php?aid=1796>

State mining profits surge

With high demand and high prices, industry observers expect boom to continue

*by Pat Forgey
Juneau Empire
June 18, 2007*

Old-timers may tell you Alaska's mining heyday is long gone. Tax collectors are telling a different story. State mine taxes, based on profits, have skyrocketed in recent years.

State Department of Revenue officials are expecting to receive \$58.7 million in mining tax in fiscal 2007, which ends June 30. That number is more than triple last year's mining tax receipts of \$18.6 million, which was itself a record.

To view article in its entirety, please click on
http://www.juneauempire.com/stories/061807/loc_20070618016.shtml

Wildlife numbers

*Staff report
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
June 18, 2007*

Alaska should take note of the numbers from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's latest survey of hunting and fishing activities.

To view article in its entirety, please click on
<http://newsminer.com/2007/06/18/7544#more-7544>

Fairbanks mining employment drops

*The Associated Press
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
June 18, 2007*

FAIRBANKS- Mining employment in Fairbanks slipped the first three months of the year, the result of the end of construction at the Pogo gold mine near Delta Junction, officials said.

To view article in its entirety, please click on
http://www.juneauempire.com/stories/061807/sta_20070618009.shtml

Canada's role in Alaska trade economy goes beyond being a customer

*by Greg Wolf
Alaska Journal of Commerce
June 17, 2007*

In recent weeks, World Trade Center Alaska has launched a new trade development program focused on expanding business opportunities between Alaska and Canada.

The "Canada: Opportunities Next Door" program seeks to build upon the already strong foundation of cross-border commercial ties that have kept Canada one of the state's top trading partners for decades.

To view article in its entirety, please click on
http://www.alaskajournal.com/stories/061707/opi_20070617092.shtml

Program sends teachers into the field

by Melissa Campbell
Alaska Journal of Commerce
June 17, 2007

After years of being an educator, Lin Hampson said it only recently hit her that she had been ignoring a large portion of her students. A counselor at Homer High School, Hampson primarily focused on the college-bound track; technical and vocational schools didn't register.

To view article in its entirety, please click on
http://www.alaskajournal.com/stories/061707/hom_20070617012.shtml

Rio Tinto slides past tax bill

AdelaideNow
June 15, 2007

RIO Tinto has settled a \$515 million franking-credit dispute with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), ending a five-year saga.

The big miner said yesterday they had reached agreement on tax assessments imposed on franking-credit transactions that took place in 1997.

To view article in its entirety, please click on
<http://www.news.com.au/adelaidenow/story/0,22606,21906323-913,00.html>

Bristol Bay leasing may be in jeopardy

Alliance, CEA join forces to lobby Congress for continued access to OCS energy exploration and development opportunity

by Rose Ragsdale
Petroleum News
Week of June 10, 2007

Six months ago, the U.S. government lifted a moratorium on oil and gas leasing in Bristol Bay, bringing new hope for exploration and development activity in that largely unexplored region of Alaska.

To view article in its entirety, please click on
<http://www.petroleumnews.com/pntruncate/905482786.shtml>

Hinchey gets committee approval on Bristol Bay protection

MidHudson News
June 8, 2007

Washington -- Continuing his efforts in what he believes will protect Alaska's salmon-rich Bristol Bay from oil and gas development, Congressman Maurice Hinchey Thursday won the backing of the House Appropriations Committee for multiple extensive scientific, environmental, and meteorological studies of the impact oil and gas drilling would have on the region. Hinchey successfully offered the language calling for the Bristol Bay studies as an amendment to the report accompanying the Interior Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2008.

To view article in its entirety, please click on
http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/Hinchey_BrisBay-08Jun07.html

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