

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8193

To prohibit and restrict certain actions in the Bristol Bay watershed, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 1, 2024

Mrs. PELTOLA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To prohibit and restrict certain actions in the Bristol Bay
watershed, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Bristol Bay Protection
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Pebble Mine project proposes to dis-
9 charge dredged or fill material into waters of the

1 United States, including wetlands, which are subject
2 to the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act.

3 (2) The discharge of dredged or fill material
4 into these waters will have unacceptable adverse ef-
5 fects on municipal water supplies, shellfish beds and
6 fishery areas, wildlife, and recreational areas.

7 (3) The Administrator of the Environmental
8 Protection Agency, pursuant to section 404(c) of the
9 Clean Water Act, has prohibited the specification of
10 the project area as a disposal site and has deter-
11 mined that the discharge of dredged or fill material
12 into these waters will have unacceptable adverse ef-
13 fects, including—

14 (A) the loss of approximately 8.5 miles
15 (13.7 km) of documented anadromous fish
16 streams;

17 (B) the loss of approximately 91 miles
18 (147 km) of additional streams that support
19 anadromous fish streams;

20 (C) the loss of approximately 2,108 acres
21 (8.5 km²) of wetlands and other waters that
22 support anadromous fish streams; and

23 (D) adverse impacts on approximately 29
24 additional miles (46.7 km) of anadromous fish

1 streams resulting from greater than 20 percent
2 changes in average monthly streamflow.

3 (4) Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed is an area
4 of unparalleled ecological value, boasting salmon di-
5 versity and productivity unrivaled anywhere in North
6 America.

7 (5) The region's salmon resources have sup-
8 ported Alaska Native cultures for thousands of years
9 and continue to support one of the last intact salm-
10 on-based cultures in the world.

11 (6) The Bristol Bay watershed's largely undis-
12 turbed aquatic habitats and productive salmon popu-
13 lations create this globally significant ecological and
14 cultural resource.

15 (7) People in the Bristol Bay region rely on
16 subsistence resources to provide high-quality foods,
17 foster a healthy lifestyle, and form the basis for so-
18 cial relations. Much of the region's population prac-
19 tices subsistence, with salmon making up a large
20 portion of their diets, and residents are particularly
21 vulnerable to potential changes in salmon abun-
22 dance.

1 **SEC. 3. CODIFICATION OF FINAL DETERMINATION RELAT-**
2 **ING TO PEBBLE DEPOSIT AREA.**

3 The final determination of the Environmental Protec-
4 tion Agency, published on February 3, 2023, and titled
5 “Final Determination To Prohibit the Specification of and
6 Restrict the Use for Specification of Certain Waters With-
7 in Defined Areas as Disposal Sites; Pebble Deposit Area,
8 Southwest Alaska” (88 Fed. Reg. 7441), shall have the
9 force and effect of law.

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