

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8193

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

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 1, 2024

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

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## 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 km<sup>2</sup>) 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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