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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Nunamta Aulukestai Denounces EPA's Attempt to Roll Back Protections for Bristol Bay

Dillingham, AK: While Bristol Bay Alaskans catch salmon to feed their families and commercial fishermen pull in record numbers of fish, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began withdrawing protections that safeguard the fisheries that produce the world's largest run of wild sockeye salmon.

Millions of people supported the protections outlined in the EPA's July 2014 Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination. By withdrawing those protections, the EPA ignores the input of Alaskans, and disregards the health of a vital Alaska resource.

Here is a statement from Robin Samuelsen

“This is terrible. This is a record salmon season. We have our own gold mine already. It’s called the sockeye salmon fishery of Bristol Bay. And, we are currently working hard right now to harvest the record number of salmon coming into our region. For the federal government to throw all of this away for the benefit of a foreign mining company. It’s criminal.”

Here is a statement from Myrtice Evalt

“It makes your blood boil. Everyone is out fishing. We are all taking care of our livelihoods right now. A livelihood that Bristol Bay has supported for thousands of years. And now is when EPA announces that it plans to toss out proposed protections for EPA. A dark cloud just rolled into Bristol Bay.”

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Nunamta Aulukestai is a coalition of Alaska Native Village Corporations and tribes in the Bristol Bay region dedicated to protecting the Bristol Bay watershed from unsustainable development.