



Enriching Our Native Way of Life

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BBNC statement on EPA's announcement that it will begin process to withdraw proposed protections for Bristol Bay

ANCHORAGE, AK – Jason Metrokin, CEO of Bristol Bay Native Corporation, made the following statement after today's EPA announcement that it will begin the process to withdraw its Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination for the Bristol Bay Watershed:

"Thousands of fishermen and women are currently in Bristol Bay participating in what is proving to be a tremendously successful commercial fishing season. That EPA is now proposing to withdraw potential protections for this world-class billion-dollar resource is not sound economic or environmental policy. We urge EPA to extend the comment period for this action to no less than 120 days and to hold hearings in the region so the people of Bristol Bay can adequately express their opinions."

"BBNC and its shareholders were part of the initial effort to request EPA intervention to protect Bristol Bay from the potential threats posed by Pebble Mine, and commented throughout the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment and Proposed Determination processes. We will continue to make our voices heard and advocate strongly to protect the future of our people, and their livelihoods and way of life."

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About BBNC: Bristol Bay Native Corporation is a responsible Alaska Native investment corporation dedicated to the mission of "Enriching Our Native Way of Life." Established through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, BBNC works to protect the land in Bristol Bay, celebrate the legacy of its people, and enhance the lives of its shareholders.