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**Re: "When considering the Pebble mine, look at the Fraser River (08/01/08)"**

Drs. Schindler and Hilborn are correct that Fraser River salmon runs have declined since the historic highs of the 1990s. But the implication that this cycle is in some way linked to mining is not correct.

There are eight operating hard rock mines in the Fraser River watershed today, as well as 64 historic mines. Despite the 100-plus year history of hard rock mining in the Fraser Basin, the industry has had no known effects on salmon populations.

Instead, experts point to the most likely causes of recent declines as: ocean conditions; over-fishing; urban development; agriculture; timber harvesting; heavy industry and channel maintenance near Vancouver. Mining doesn't make the list.

Some groups opposing Pebble claim that co-existence of mining and fish is not possible. 100 years of history in the Fraser River prove otherwise.

But the Fraser River is not Bristol Bay. We in the Pebble Partnership are clear that the onus is on us to show Alaskans how the salmon fisheries of Bristol Bay will be protected if Pebble is to be developed. For us, as for all Alaskans, fish come first.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Magee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sean Magee,  
Director, Public Affairs  
The Pebble Partnership