

Speak out for
protection of your fisheries!

TOWN HALL MEETING with Senator Begich & Interior Secretary Ken Salazar Offshore Drilling & BLM Public Lands

Monday, April 13, 3:00 pm at Dillingham High School

WHAT'S HAPPENING:

Secretary Salazar and Senator Begich are hosting a town hall meeting in Dillingham to discuss and hear public comment on offshore drilling and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) public lands.

Offshore Drilling:

The Obama administration is currently reviewing the offshore drilling plan put in place by the Bush administration and **considering whether Bristol Bay leases currently scheduled for 2011 and 2014 should move forward.**

BLM Lands:

Additionally, there is **great potential to reverse the damaging decisions made by the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Bay Resource Management Plan (RMP) – which recommends opening 99% of Bristol Bay lands along the Nushagak and Kvichak Rivers to mineral and oil and gas development.** The administration has an opportunity to correct the mistakes

YOUR COMMENTS NEEDED!

This is an exceptional opportunity to directly express your position on offshore drilling and mining issues to decision makers. **Secretary Salazar has the authority to halt offshore leasing in Bristol Bay and to re-open the Bay RMP to determine and implement lasting protections for BLM public lands.** He does not have any authority related to Pebble Mine, but will be making decisions on offshore drilling and BLM lands in coming months. He is seeking comment from the locally affected population on these decisions.



WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

- If the Secretary does not halt the current drilling schedule for Bristol Bay, **a sale will be held in 2011.**
- Offshore drilling and onshore mineral activity in the region could have significant **negative impacts on the fisheries and communities** of Bristol Bay and the Bering Sea.
- The federal government itself predicts **one large spill and numerous smaller spills** if drilling occurs. **Spilled oil** in the lease sale area **would move northward** towards Bristol Bay's salmon fisheries and towards Dillingham, & surrounding communities.
- 2 million additional acres would be made available for mineral entry on BLM lands without special management protection
- Drilling and mining would provide **very limited benefits** to the state and local communities. **Revenue sharing is not required** for leasing in federal waters and existing mining laws provide virtually no income for the state and local economy.
- Experts have stated drilling in the region is **unlikely to have any effect on local energy prices** and would generate few new jobs in communities.
- The **risks of offshore drilling and onshore mineral activity** in Bristol Bay's rich waters from seismic surveys, contaminated discharges, oil spills, and the sprawling footprint of infrastructure **are simply too great** for the limited, short-term benefits.

Make your voice heard! Tell *Secretary Salazar & Senator Begich* to **protect Bristol Bay from offshore drilling & mining.**

For more details and background talking points go to <http://www.akmarine.org>
or <http://www.alaskawild.org/our-issues/blm-campaign/bay-rmp/>
or call Terry Hoefflerle, Nunamta Aulukestai at 842-4404.

