

# NO ONE'S WASTELAND



## LIFE-GIVING LANDS & WATERS

British Columbia (B.C.) mines bordering Southeast Alaska threaten to destroy some of the most pristine and productive waterways in the U.S. These mines are scattered throughout the watersheds of the Taku, Stikine, and Unuk Rivers, which flow from Canada into Alaska. These rivers have sustained Indigenous communities for generations. Today, they also support thousands of jobs and billion-dollar salmon fishing and tourism industries.

The billions of tons of toxic waste that will live onsite in perpetuity will be produced by these B.C. mines. The storage dams holding back the waste can, and will, break. When they do, poisonous waste will destroy the region's waters, wiping out the fish and jobs forever.



It's time to ban these toxic mine waste dams and come together to envision the shared future of our shared international and transboundary salmon rivers before it's too late.

## THE SITUATION

B.C.'s developing, existing, and old abandoned mining projects in boundary-crossing watersheds hold tailings dams filled with billions of tons of poisonous waste that contain heavy metals, selenium, and other toxins such as arsenic and cyanide. They are located near glaciers, in earthquake-prone areas, and near critical fish habitat. Any failure would risk catastrophic impacts to fisheries, Indigenous communities, and Southeast Alaska's ecosystems and salmon watersheds.

Despite the risk, the B.C. and Canadian governments continue to allow these mines to operate, as well as permit the development of new mines at the headwaters of rivers flowing across the international border into the U.S. without the meaningful involvement of those downstream.

# B.C. MINES RISK EVERYTHING



## **JOB**

Southeast Alaska thrives on multigenerational, family-rooted small businesses in fishing and tourism. These rivers drive a \$1B regional salmon fishing industry that supports 7,000 Alaska jobs. Tourism adds an additional 10,000 annual jobs and injects roughly \$1B into the regional economy. B.C. mines threaten to impact or destroy the salmon fishing and visitor industries, and jobs in these sectors.

## **FOOL'S GOLD**

Gold mining companies have convinced the public that these mines are critical to driving the green economy, but 93% of gold mined globally winds up stored in bank vaults or in jewelry.

Gold mining creates immense waste. In fact, fashioning just one gold ring results in 20 tons of harmful byproduct. Tailings dams are so prone to failure that no insurance company will take on the enormous risk of insuring them.

## **CULTURE**

The Taku, Stikine, and Unuk have been centers of culture and commerce for Indigenous Nations since time immemorial. B.C. mining threatens to poison the rivers and destroy the way of life sustained by them.

## **SALMON**

The Taku River is Southeast Alaska's largest salmon producer, the Stikine is a close second, and the Unuk is one of SE AK's top five king salmon producers. These rivers support large populations of all five species of Pacific salmon (King, sockeye, coho, pink, and chum), Dolly Varden, and hooligan. B.C. mining operations at their headwaters threaten to wipe out these important fish populations.



## **TAKE ACTION**

Now it's time for Alaska's leaders, Alaska's Congressional Delegation, and the U.S. Federal Government to stand united for the Rivers that Feed Us and call for a ban on these toxic mine waste dams along shared international rivers.

[SalmonBeyondBorders.org/take-action](https://SalmonBeyondBorders.org/take-action)