



FISHERIES MEETINGS - Transboundary mine presentations offered

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Salmon Beyond Borders and the United Tribal Transboundary Mining Working Group will hold public meetings in four Southeast Alaska communities Oct. 27-30 to discuss large-scale mines planned for the transboundary river region.

The presentations are scheduled for Monday, Oct. 27, at the Keet Gooshi Heen School in Sitka; Tuesday, Oct. 28, at Nolan Center in Wrangell; Wednesday, Oct. 29, at Petersburg High School in Petersburg; and Thursday, Oct. 30, at the Southeast Discovery Center in Ketchikan.

Each meeting will begin at 6 p.m., with presentations by geophysicist and mining expert Dave Chambers, fisheries biologist Sarah O'Neal, and local community members.

Several large mines are currently in various stages of planning and development in northern British Columbia, in the headwaters of some of Southeast Alaska's largest and most productive wild salmon rivers, the Taku, Stikine, and Unuk.

There are currently no safeguards in place to ensure that Alaska waters and fisheries would not be contaminated by acid-mine drainage or heavy metal leaching from these British Columbia mines.

These meetings, as well as one held in Juneau on Oct. 24, were prompted by concerns by environmental groups, including Trout Unlimited, over the rapid pace of development in this new mining district, and the tailings dam breach at the Mount Polley mine in central British Columbia

on Aug. 4. The Mount Polley dam breach sent contaminated mine waste into lakes and rivers that flow into Canada's Fraser River, which is abundant with salmon.

More information is available at www.salmonbeyondborders.org; www.riverswithoutborders.org; and www.wildborderwatersheds.org.

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