



## My Turn: One year after disaster, mining threats

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By [AARON ANGERMAN](#)

FOR THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

As a member of the Shtax'heen Kwaan (Stikine Tribe) in Wrangell, I am frightened to think that what we have in our back yard now that the Red Chris Mine is operational. That the fish we've relied on tradition contaminated or disappear, that the local commercial fishing industry could be decimated, and that the industry close doors.

Neither the community of Wrangell or the Stikine Tribe were consulted in the years of planning and receiving financial benefits, but the waste flows immediately out of their waters and into ours. If the Mine, an entire community will be left to pick up the pieces of a puzzle that will never again be whole.

The Red Chris Mine is located on the Iskut River, the largest tributary in the Stikine headwaters. Red Chris is a larger operation than its sister mine, and it has a tailings dam permits became required in British Columbia, an average of two B.C. dams have failed that trend to continue. Wrangell does not want that failure to happen in our Stikine.

On Sunday, Aug. 2, the Wrangell Cooperative Association will host the Blessing of the Stikine, mark the Polley disaster. A procession through downtown Wrangell will kick off the ceremony at 1 p.m. A blessing by Chief Shakes clan house will follow, with traditional songs from tribal members and words from guest spokesperson Oscar Dennis and Mining Team Coordinator Jacinda Mack of Williams Lake, B.C.

The Wrangell Cooperative Association welcomes all to attend the Aug. 2 ceremony, and it urges other mines are not only an issue for those who rely on the Stikine, but for those who depend on the natural resources of our state officials are going to be all bark, then the communities and tribes must provide the bite. Various ceremonies. For more information, please contact the WCA Tribal office by phone at 874-4304 or by email at [wca@wrangell.ca](#)

I'm a proud Wrangellite, husband and father of three. The natural resources have helped shape Wrangell the place we call home. I hope Gov. Bill Walker doesn't sit and watch as the Boundary Waters Treaty is put in immediate danger. Entire communities throughout Southeast Alaska are at stake.

- Aaron Angerman is a Wrangell resident.

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