



OIL & GAS DEVELOPMENT IN

# Bristol Bay

HIGH RISK LOW RETURN

[www.worldwildlife.org/bristolbay](http://www.worldwildlife.org/bristolbay)



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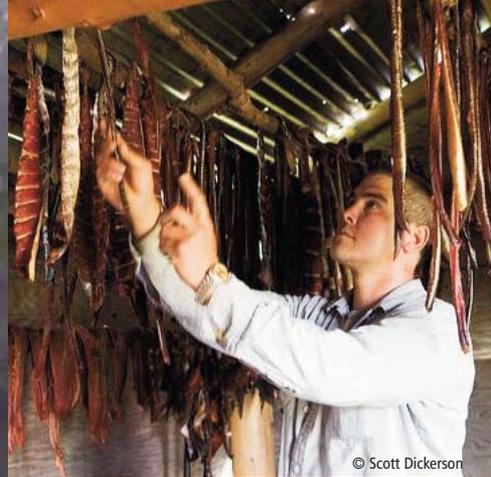
*“Why risk ruining a billion dollar fishery, a valuable sport hunting and fishing industry, a critical resource for Native Alaskans and one of the most important places for marine wildlife populations in the Bering Sea? An oil spill in Bristol Bay would have devastating impacts with little chance of a complete recovery.”*

*~ Bill Eichenbaum, managing director and Vice President of the marine portfolio at World Wildlife Fund*



# At Risk

For nearly a quarter century, Bristol Bay has been off limits to oil and gas development. But protection has been peeled away with the lifting of the Congressional moratorium in 2004 and Presidential Withdrawals in January, 2007.

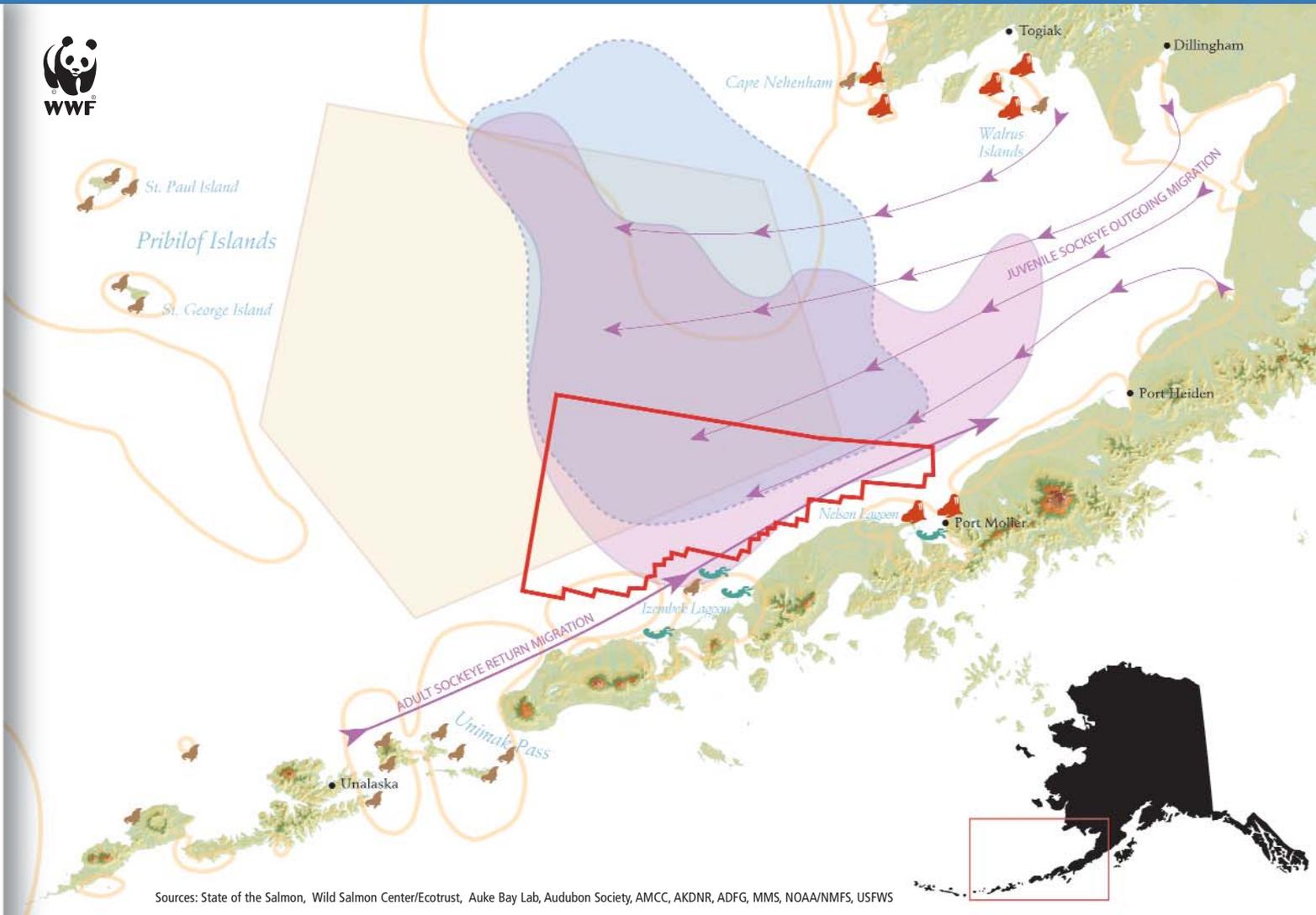


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- Epicenter of the Bering Sea fishery with harvest values in excess of \$2 billion annually
- Superhighway of the largest sockeye salmon run in the world, with over 39 million salmon migrating through the area to spawn in the bay's headwaters
- Critically important nursery grounds for growing pollock and salmon
- Thousands of jobs for Americans in the Bering Sea fishery, including more than 2,700 salmon gill-netters from across Alaska and the U.S.
- Enduring source of wild foods harvested by Native Alaskans
- Red King Crab Essential Fish Habitat that supports a fishery valued in excess of \$79 million annually
- Home to 16 species of whales, including one of the world's rarest cetaceans, the North Pacific right whale
- Globally recognized areas for biological diversity, including some of the world's greatest concentrations of seabirds
- A dozen state and federal areas in the region that protect irreplaceable wildlife habitat

- Area Proposed for Leasing
- Important Bird Areas
- Sockeye Salmon Juvenile Core Distribution
- Pollock Young-of-the-Year Core Distribution
- North Pacific Right Whale Critical Habitat
- Sea Otter Highest Concentrations
- Steller Sea Lion Haulouts & Rookeries
- Walrus Haulouts



## Risks Not Worth Taking

The value of safeguarding the Bering Sea's renewable fish and wildlife resources far outweighs the low potential of oil and gas and the associated risks of offshore activities.

- The estimated value of oil and gas from offshore development (\$7.7 billion over the entire 25–40 year lifespan of the project) pales in comparison to the \$2 billion annual value of the Bering Sea fishery.
- Impacts of exploration and development will extend beyond the proposed 5.6 million acre lease. Marine wildlife does not recognize boundaries. Neither does oil when it spills.
- Development would benefit few. The risks would be borne by us all.



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## Our Best Bet is Not to Gamble

Bristol Bay's resources are worth too much to risk. Act Now! Contact your Congressional delegation. Ask them to keep Bristol Bay free from offshore oil and gas development! Learn more at [www.worldwildlife.org/bristolbay](http://www.worldwildlife.org/bristolbay).



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