

PRESS RELEASE

State Asks for More than \$700 Billion in Compensation for Federal Taking of State Land in Bristol Bay

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(Anchorage, AK) – When the United States tied up 309 square miles of State land in Bristol Bay with new regulations, it broke its contract with the State, violating the Cook Inlet Land Exchange of 1976 and violating the Statehood Act of 1953. Yesterday, the state of Alaska filed a complaint in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims asking for damages for its confiscated lands. The State estimates the value of the taken land at more than \$700 billion. This amount may be among the highest sought in the Court of Federal Claims.

This case follows up on the State's efforts last year to take the matter straight to the U.S. Supreme Court. [Last July, the State asked the U.S. Supreme Court to hear this case](#) and order the EPA to correct its circumvention of a federal permitting process. The Court denied that request, necessitating the filing of this action. The State also anticipates filing a separate suit in the U.S. District Court challenging EPA's unlawful action on substantive grounds. Either of these new cases may be appealed—ultimately to the Supreme Court if necessary.