

# S u m m a r y   R e p o r t

## B r i s t o l   B a y   R e s i d e n t s V i e w s   o n   D e v e l o p m e n t

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Study Commissioned by Nunamta Aulukestai

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nunamta Aulukestai (Caretakers of Our Lands) is an association of eight Village Corporations from the Bristol Bay region who are committed to protecting the Bristol Bay region from destructive mining, and to protecting their renewable resources and subsistence lifestyle. The Board of Directors of Nunamta Aulukestai requested Craciun Research conduct a market research study exploring future desires for resource development. Craciun Research has been conducting market research and public opinion polls in Alaska, nationally and internationally for over twenty years.

Company founder Jean Craciun, a Sociologist, has pioneered innovative research with Alaska's Native Peoples and has extended that knowledge to national work with Native Americans. Her belief that researchers are required to adapt techniques in a way that is sensitive to cultural requirements has proven highly effective. As a result, Craciun Research has been successful in conducting both quantitative and qualitative research studies that have explored the experience and perceptions of unique target populations such as those found here in this study.

The study was conducted by Craciun Research in May-June, 2009. In a sample of four hundred and eleven (N=411) adult residents of the Bristol Bay area that was very carefully drawn to obtain an accurate cross-section of six different areas of Bristol Bay. In this study, Craciun Research discovered strong opposition to the Pebble Mine: 73% strongly oppose, and 6% somewhat oppose, while 6% strongly favor it and 2% somewhat favor it. The remaining 10% are keeping an open mind. This opposition extends across all six areas surveyed. In the Lake Iliamna, Lake Clark area 63% strongly oppose the mine and 10% somewhat oppose it.

In related questions it was found that large percentages agree that *Pebble Mine would seriously damage commercial, guided or subsistence fishing* (78% strongly or somewhat agree) and that *any local jobs provided by Pebble would not be worth the damage*, (73% agree), while 10% agree that they *would give up some subsistence opportunities in return for the jobs that Pebble would provide* (73% strongly disagree).

Other questions related to Pebble mine showed a general doubt about the operation.

- Seventy-one percent agree, at least somewhat, that *most of the jobs created by Pebble Mine would be taken by people from outside the area*.
- Sixty percent agree strongly or somewhat, that *an influx of mine workers into the Bristol Bay area would increase competition for subsistence*.

In spite of their attitude toward the Pebble Mine, 55% of those interviewed strongly or somewhat agree that *the lack of good-paying jobs is the most important problem in the Bristol Bay area*.

Finally, 48% of those surveyed get most of their diet from subsistence and another 24% get at least half from that source. Fifty-seven percent of the households contain a commercial fisher.

## BACKGROUND & METHODS

### THE SURVEY

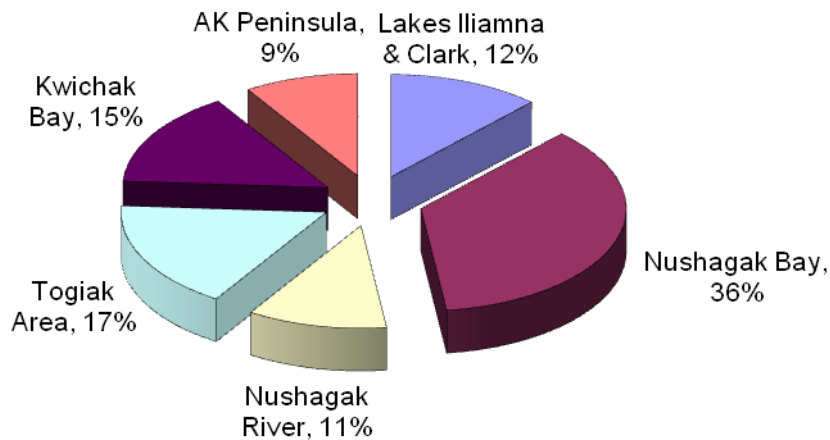
The survey of Bristol Bay adult residents was conducted by Craciun Research between May 18<sup>th</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009.

### THE SAMPLE

The sample was chosen at random from citizens of Bristol Bay. Great care was used to obtain an accurate cross-section of the Bay, surveying people in twenty-nine villages in six areas. The sample was made in proportion to the adult populations of the areas, as shown in Chart A.

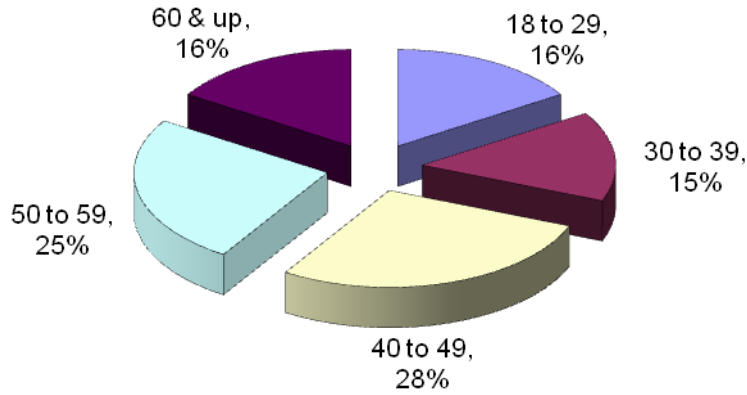
The overall probability is 19 out of 20 that, for a sample of this size, had researchers sought to interview every household using the same questionnaire, the findings would differ from these overall survey results by no more than 4.8 percentage points in either direction. That is, the margin of error is +/- 4.8%.

**CHART A.1: AREAS SURVEYED**

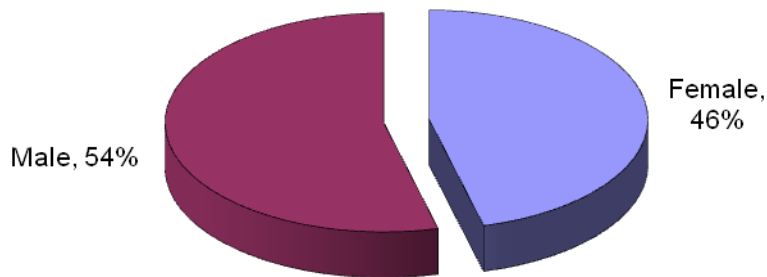


The sample consists of 54% males and 46% females with a median age of forty-six.

**CHART A.2: AGES OF THOSE SURVEYED**

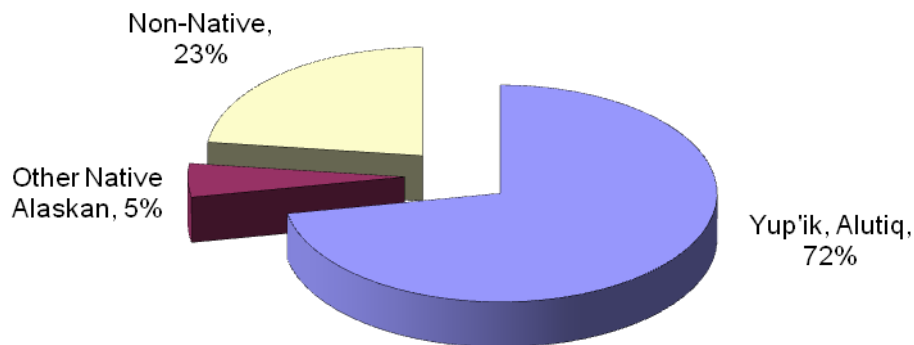


**CHART A.3: GENDER OF THOSE SURVEYED**



Seventy-two percent were Yup'ik, Alutiq or both, 5% were other Alaskan Natives and 23% non-Native.

**CHART A.4: ETHNICITIES OF THOSE SURVEYED**



## R E S E A R C H F I N D I N G S

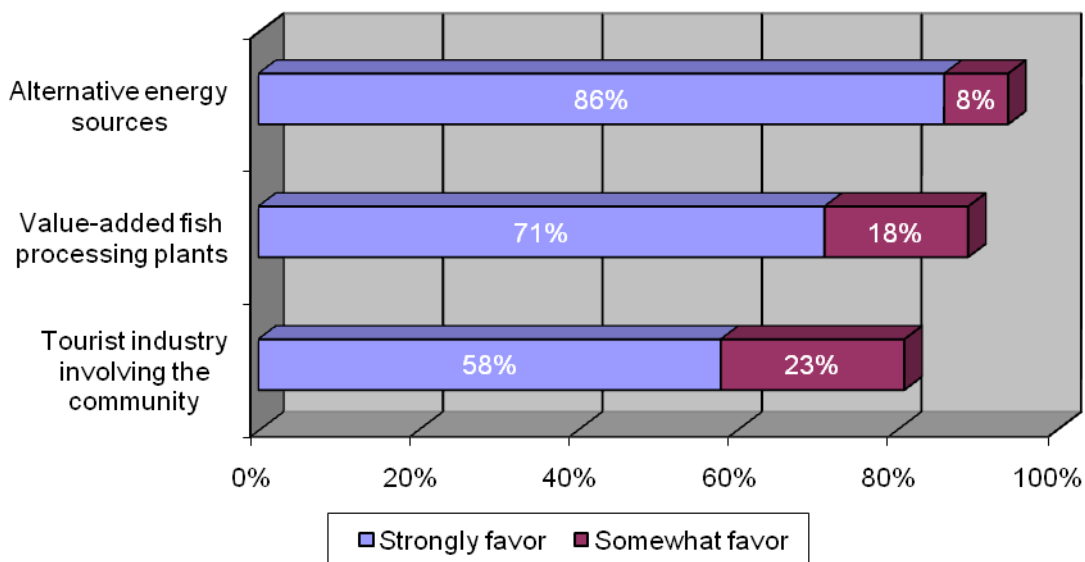
**Question:** I will read you a list of industries that may become more important in Bristol Bay. For each, please tell me whether you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose. *[First six questions on the list asked at random]*

- A tourist industry that the community could be more involved in
- Value-added fish processing plants for the commercial fisheries; plants where they would cut the fish up and prepackage to sell for easy cooking.
- Development and maintenance of alternative energy sources, like wind, solar or geothermal energy.
- Mining for other minerals
- The oil and gas industry

Using the same scale, do you favor or oppose the Pebble Mine, near Iliamna?  
How about the proposed Shell Oil exploration and possible development offshore near Port Moller on the Alaska Peninsula?

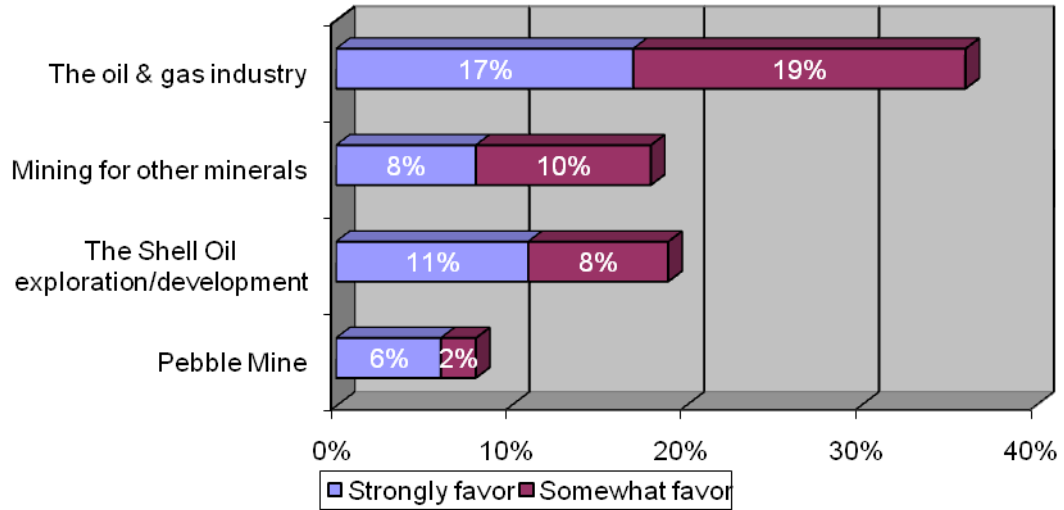
Ninety-four percent of all respondents strongly or somewhat favor *the development and maintenance of alternative energy resources*, 89% strongly or somewhat favor *value-added fish processing plants*, and 82% strongly or somewhat favor *a tourist industry that the community could be more involved in*.

**CHART B.1: ATTITUDES TOWARD LOCAL INDUSTRY**



As for the extraction industries, support is very low, only 8% strongly or somewhat favor the Pebble Mine.

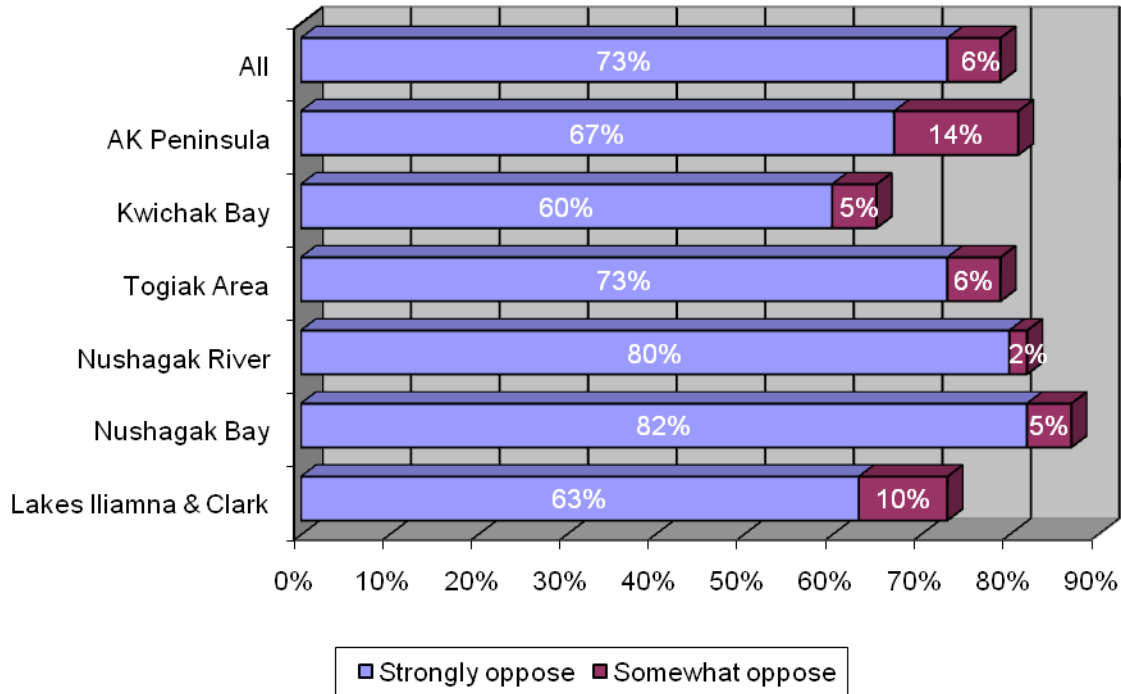
**CHART B.2: ATTITUDES TOWARD EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES**



This chart shows opposition (rather than support) to Pebble mine as it is distributed among the various areas.

Overall, 79% strongly or somewhat oppose Pebble Mine, with opposition lowest in Kwichak Bay (64% strongly or somewhat oppose) and highest in Nushagak River (82%). The total opposition in the Lakes District is 73%.

**CHART B.3: ATTITUDES TOWARD PEBBLE MINE BY AREA**



**Question:** Now I am going to read you a list of statements people have made about Bristol Bay. Please tell me whether you strongly agree with the statement, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree. [*Questions asked at random*]

The Pebble Mine would seriously damage commercial, guided, or subsistence fishing.

Other businesses can be started in the Bristol Bay area that could provide as many jobs as Pebble and/or offshore oil and gas production.

Any local jobs provided by Pebble are not worth the damage it would do to the land, water or natural environment.

Many people are working on getting more jobs for the Bristol Bay Area.

The lack of good-paying jobs is the most important problem in the Bristol Bay area.

Offshore oil production would be a serious threat to commercial, guided or subsistence fishing.

I would be willing to give up some subsistence opportunities in return for the jobs that Pebble would provide.

There are some ways of mining that can be done without much damage to the environment.

An influx of mine workers into the Bristol Bay area would increase competition for subsistence.

Most of the jobs created by Pebble Mine would be taken by people from outside the area.

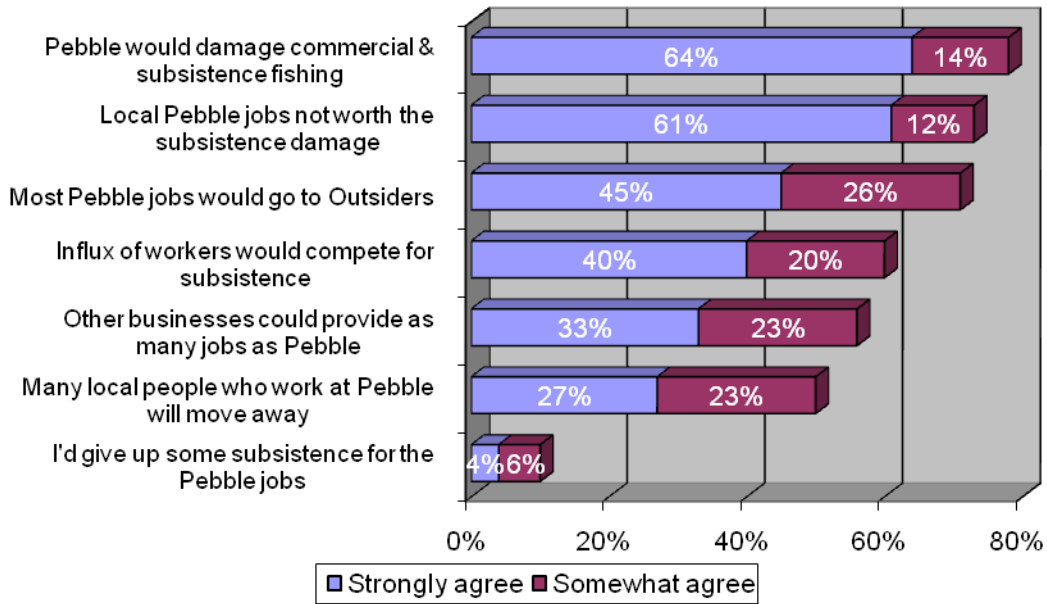
Many of the people from Bristol Bay who go to work in Pebble Mine would eventually move away as their jobs or income changed.

Large percentages agree that *Pebble Mine would seriously damage commercial, guided or subsistence fishing* (78% strongly or somewhat agree) and that *any local jobs provided by Pebble would not be worth the damage*, (73% agree), while 10% agree that they *would give up some subsistence opportunities in return for the jobs that Pebble would provide*.

- Most of the respondents (71%) agree, at least somewhat, that *most of the jobs created by Pebble Mine would be taken by people from outside the area*.
- Nearly as many, 60% agree strongly or somewhat, that *an influx of mine workers into the Bristol Bay area would increase competition for subsistence*.
- Fewer (50%) fear that *many of the people from Bristol Bay who go to work in Pebble Mine would eventually move away as their jobs or income changed*.

The chart may be found on the next page.

**CHART C.1: AGREE/DISAGREE STATEMENTS ABOUT PEBBLE MINE**

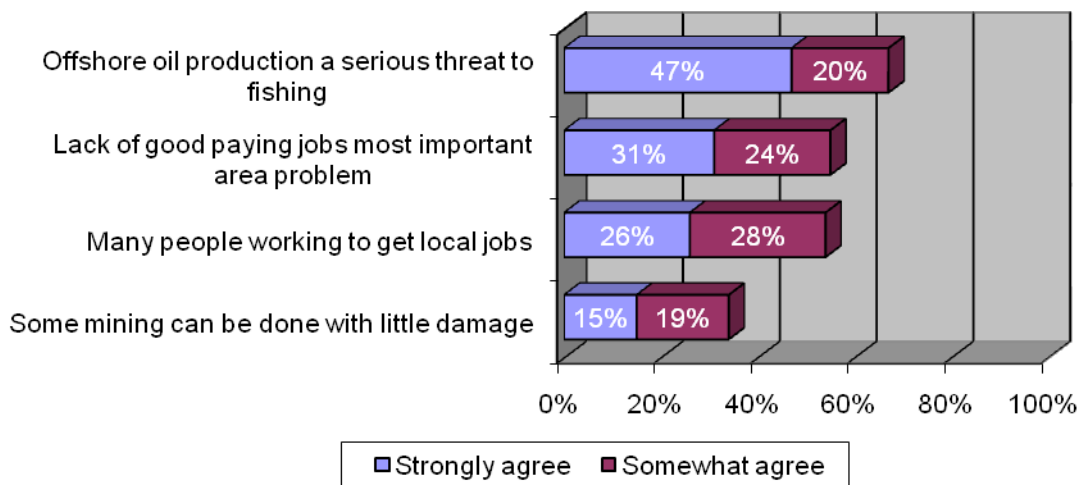


In spite of their attitude toward the Pebble Mine, 55% of those interviewed strongly or somewhat agree that *the lack of good-paying jobs is the most important problem in the Bristol Bay area*. And about the same percentage (54%), agree that *many people are working on getting more jobs for the Bristol Bay Area*.

However, only 24% agree that *there are some ways of mining that can be done without much damage to the environment*.

Two-thirds (67%) at least somewhat agree that *offshore oil production would be a serious threat to commercial, guided or subsistence fishing*.

### CHART C.2: AGREE/DISAGREE STATEMENTS ABOUT THE ECONOMY



**Question:** Whether or not you get a chance to do it yourself, how important is maintaining the subsistence lifestyle to you - very important, somewhat important, somewhat unimportant, or not at all unimportant??

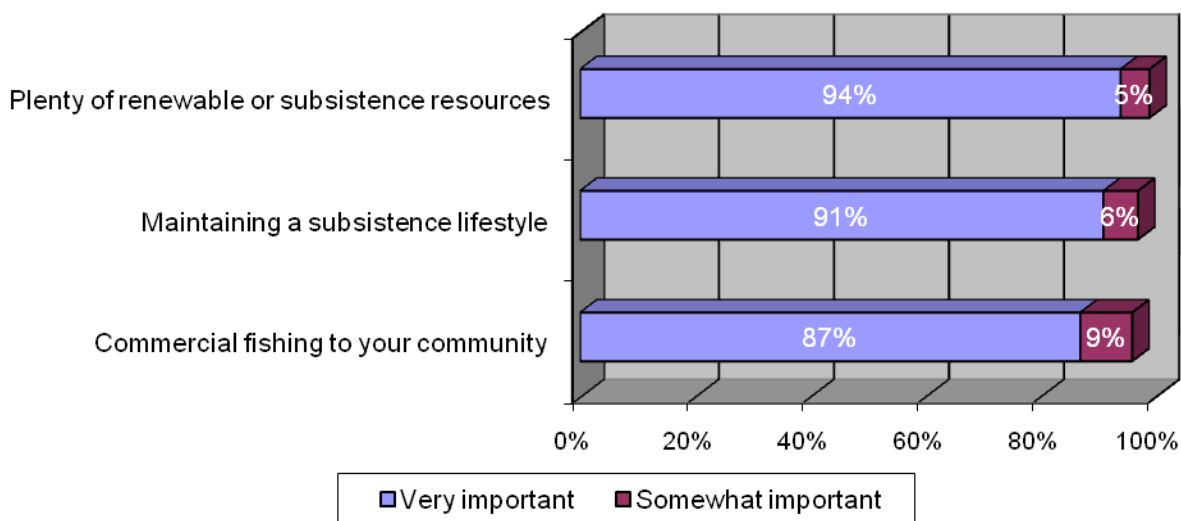
**Question:** How important is it to you to make sure there are plenty of renewable or subsistence resources, like fish, game and berries for the next generations?

**Question:** How important is commercial fishing to your community?

Making sure there are *plenty of renewable or subsistence resources such as fish, game and berries for the next generations* is very or somewhat important to 99% of the respondents in our study, and 97% feel *maintaining the subsistence lifestyle* is important as well.

Ninety-six percent (96%) think *commercial fishing* is very or somewhat important to their community.

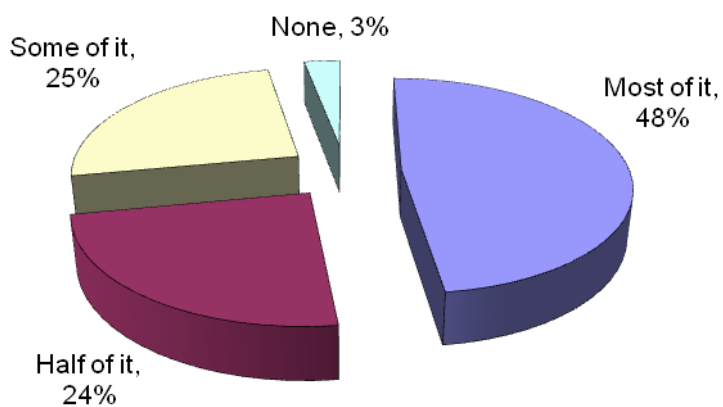
**CHART D.1 IMPORTANCE OF THE SUBSISTENCE LIFESTYLE**



**Question:** How much of your family's diet comes from subsistence foods such as salmon, caribou, moose, seal, wild berries? -- Most of it, about half of it, some of it or none of it

Forty-eight percent of those surveyed get most of their diet from subsistence and another 24% get at least half from that source.

**CHART D.2: USE OF SUBSISTENCE FOODS**



**Question:** Do you or someone in your household fish commercially, or serve as a fishing guide?

**Question:** [IF NO] Have you or someone in your household ever been involved in commercial fishing?

In 57% of these Bristol Bay households, someone fishes commercially. Another 26% have had personal contact with commercial fishing.

### CHART E.1: USE OF SUBSISTENCE FOODS

