

Bristol Bay Region / Pebble Mine Survey

SURVEY CONDUCTED June 2018

RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY:



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Background & Research Methods

Background

The United Tribes of Bristol Bay (UTBB) contracted with Hays Research Group LLC (HRG) to conduct this scientific telephone based survey to identify and monitor attitudes, and beliefs related to the proposed Pebble Mine project among residents of the Bristol Bay Region.

Survey Instrument

The survey instrument was finalized after several drafts, which included reviews and suggested changes by the UTBB, and final approval by Adam Hays, HRG Research Director. The interviews were conducted during the period of June 6th, 2018 - June 15, 2018. The telephone survey averaged 7 minutes in length. The survey instrument was carefully designed to obtain thoughtful answers from respondents while avoiding instrument bias. The survey consisted of multiple choice questions.

Sample

The total sample size of this survey was n=400 residents of the Bristol Bay Region who are currently registered to vote, including the Bristol Bay Borough, the Lake and Peninsula Borough, as well as Dillingham and other smaller unincorporated villages in the region.

The probability is 29 out of 30 (95%), for the overall sample size, that if researchers had sought to interview every eligible household from the sample frame above by using the same questionnaire, the findings would differ from these overall survey results by no more than 4.7 percentage points in either direction. Thus, the margin of error is +/-4.7% for the overall sample. For the remaining subgroups, the sampling error is larger.

The sampling error is not the only way in which survey findings may vary from the findings that would result from talking to every resident in the population studied. Survey research is susceptible to human and mechanical errors such as interviewer recording and data handling errors.

However, the standardized procedures used by HRG including the use of Computer Assisted Telephone Interview software (CATI) eliminate such errors associated with paper and pencil methods thus keeping the human error potential to a minimum. Interviews were monitored by the HRG Research Director to ensure validity of the data collected throughout the survey process.

Data Analysis & Reporting

Members of the HRG team, employing SPSS software, analyzed the data. The primary procedures reported are frequencies and cross tabulations.



Notes to Readers

Included in the presentation of each response is a summary or example of any significant findings, followed by relevant tables. All percentages in the narrative are rounded to the nearest whole percentage point.

Often times a few respondents fail to answer a question. Unless the percentage that failed to answer is significant, these people are not included in the totals upon which the percentages are based. Percentages in the tables occasionally do not add to exactly 100% because of rounding.

Cross tabulations describe data that may be related in some way. In many cross tabulations, categories are combined or omitted because the numbers are too small to be statistically significant. This manipulation may change the totals on which percentages are based, but does not affect the relationships between percentages. Cross tabulations may be used to indicate differences (or lack of differences) between subgroups of people. When a lack of difference is being shown, a footnote is appended to the table indicating that the differences are not “statistically significant”.



Executive Summary

Hays Research Group conducted this survey in Alaska among 400 registered voters in the Bristol Bay Region to identify knowledge and beliefs relating to the proposed Pebble Mine project. The survey was fielded in June of 2018, and the margin of error is +/- 4.7%. All of the respondents in this survey were screened to confirm that they were 18 years or older and registered to vote in the State of Alaska. The city that they live in was also identified.

When initially asked, 75% of survey participants reported that they somewhat or strongly oppose developing the Pebble Mine, compared to 13% who reported that they somewhat or strongly support the project. A majority (80%) of participants said they believe that Pebble Mine would be a very serious or somewhat serious threat to fishing in Bristol Bay.

Participants were asked whether they trust different entities to protect the watershed, the fish, and the economy in Bristol Bay. Only 30% of participants said that they trust the Army Corps' permitting process to do so, while 46% said that they trust the State of Alaska's permitting process. When asked if they trust Senator Lisa Murkowski to protect Bristol Bay 43% said that they did, while 36% of participants said that they trust the EPA under the current administration to do so.

Participants were told of the Pebble Partnership's permit application for a revised mine plan that is one-tenth the size of the original mine proposal. Two statements were read and participants were asked with which statement they agree. Only 16% of participants said that they agree that the Pebble Partnership will continue with the revised project and only develop one-tenth of the available resources, while 57% said that they agree that the Pebble Partnership will seek to expand to develop all resources after it has built the initial infrastructure.

Thirty-six percent (36%) of survey participants said that they believe the Pebble Partnership will provide some form of revenue sharing with local residents. Seventy percent (70%) of participants reported that they think the promise of revenue sharing is an attempt to garner support from local residents. A majority (70%) of participants said that the Pebble Mine and Bristol Bay salmon fishery cannot safely co-exist.

At the end of the survey, participants were again asked if they support or oppose developing the Pebble Mine. Responses stayed relatively the same with 77% reporting that they somewhat or strongly oppose the Pebble Mine, compared to 16% who said that they somewhat or strongly support the project, suggesting that a more comprehensive discussion about the topic during the course of the survey only caused about 1% of the survey respondents to change their opinions about the proposed Pebble Mine.

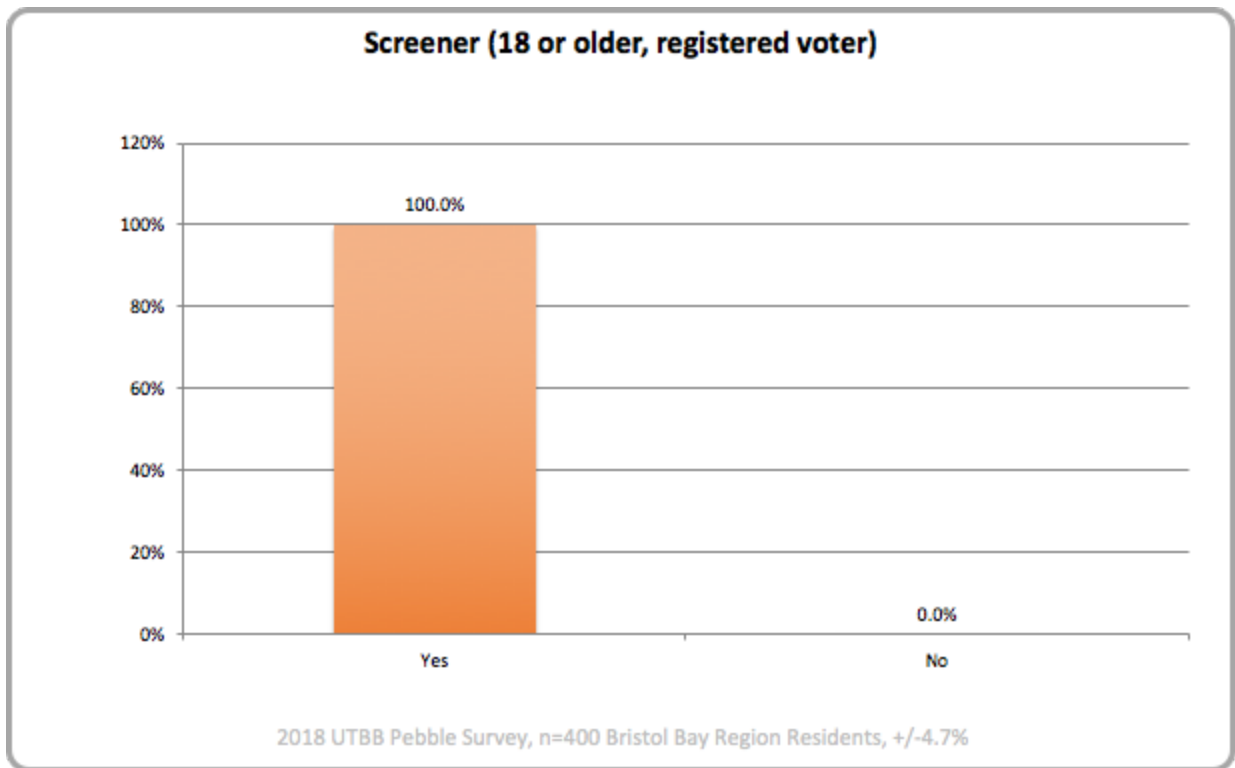


Survey Results

INTRO

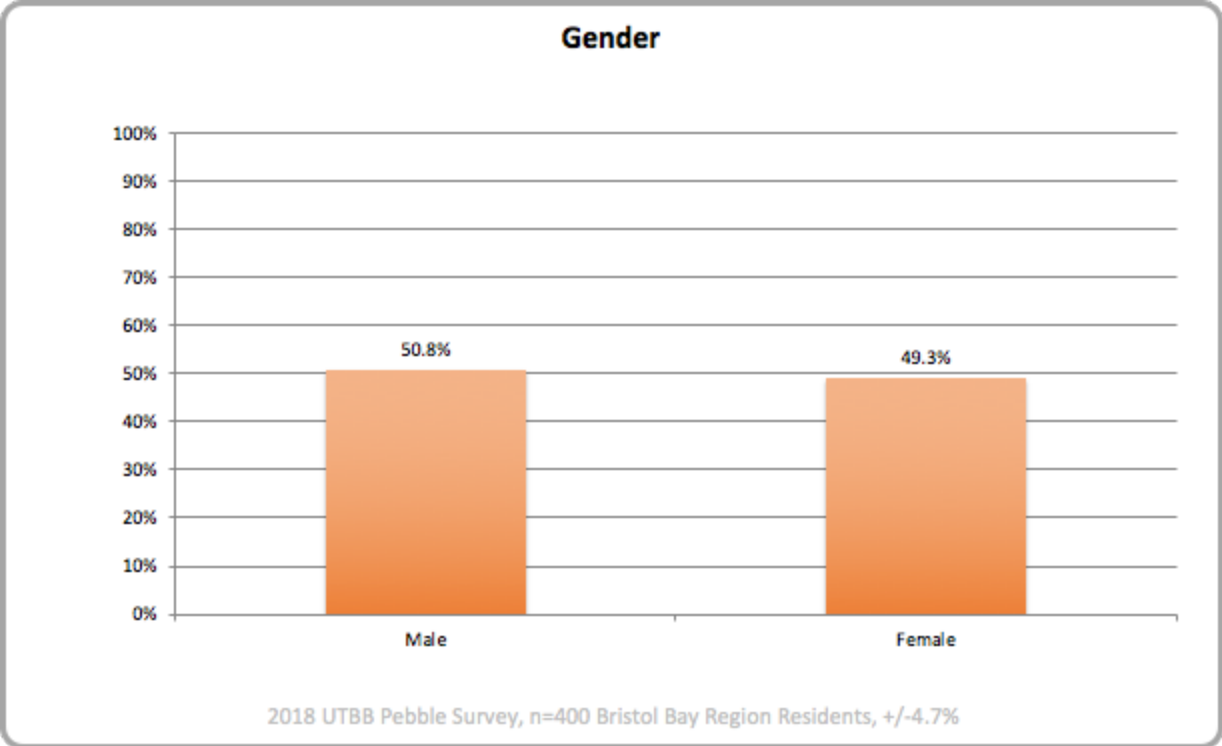
Hello, my name is _____. I am calling with Hays Research Group. We are conducting a very short survey of residents of the Bristol Bay region today. Are you 18 years or older and registered to vote?

Yes	400/400	100.0%
No	0/400	0.0%
Don't know (do not read)	0/400	0.0%
Refused (do not read)	0/400	0.0%



GENDER

Male	203/400	50.8%
Female	197/400	49.3%
Don't know (do not read)	0/400	0.0%
Refused (do not read)	0/400	0.0%

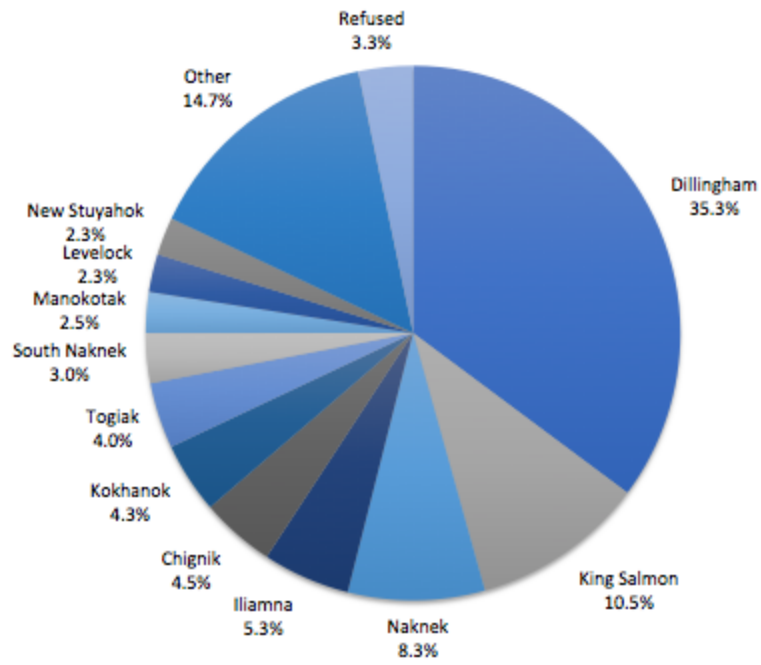


CITY

Dillingham	141/400	35.3%
King Salmon	42/400	10.5%
Naknek	33/400	8.3%
Iliamna	21/400	5.3%
Chignik	18/400	4.5%
Kokhanok	17/400	4.3%
Togiak	16/400	4.0%
South Naknek	12/400	3.0%
Manokotak	10/400	2.5%
Levelock	9/400	2.3%
New Stuyahok	9/400	2.3%
Koliganek	8/400	2.0%
Perryville	8/400	2.0%
Port Alsworth	8/400	2.0%
Ekwok	7/400	1.8%
Egigik	6/400	1.5%
Aleknagik	5/400	1.3%
Chignik Lagoon	3/400	0.8%
Cold Bay	3/400	0.8%
Pedro Bay	3/400	0.8%
Nelson Lagoon	2/400	0.5%
Nondalton	2/400	0.5%
Pilot Point	2/400	0.5%
Port Heiden	2/400	0.5%
Refused	13/400	3.3%



City



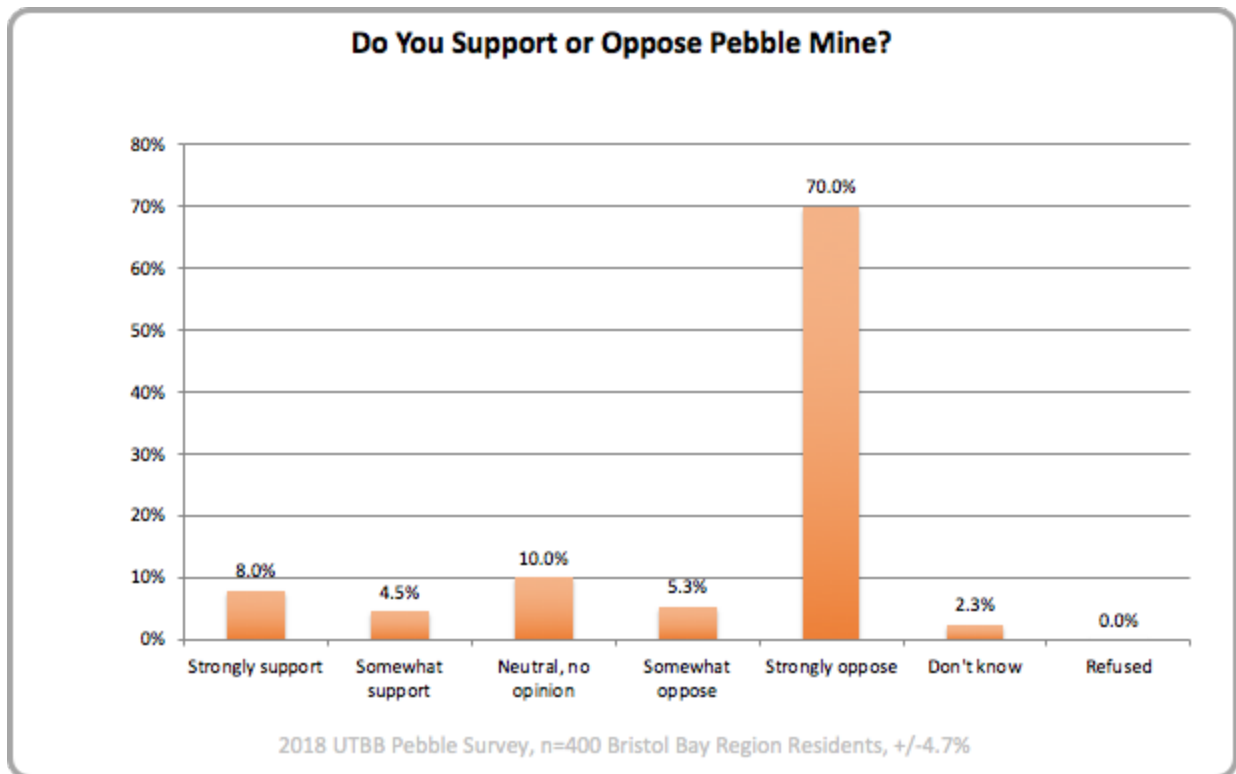
2018 UTBB Pebble Survey, n=400 Bristol Bay Region Residents, +/-4.7%



Question 1 – Support or Oppose Pebble Mine

The proposed Pebble Mine would develop a gold and copper deposit at the headwaters of the Bristol Bay watershed. Do you support or oppose developing the Pebble Mine? (If support or oppose, ask is that strongly support/oppose or somewhat support/oppose?)

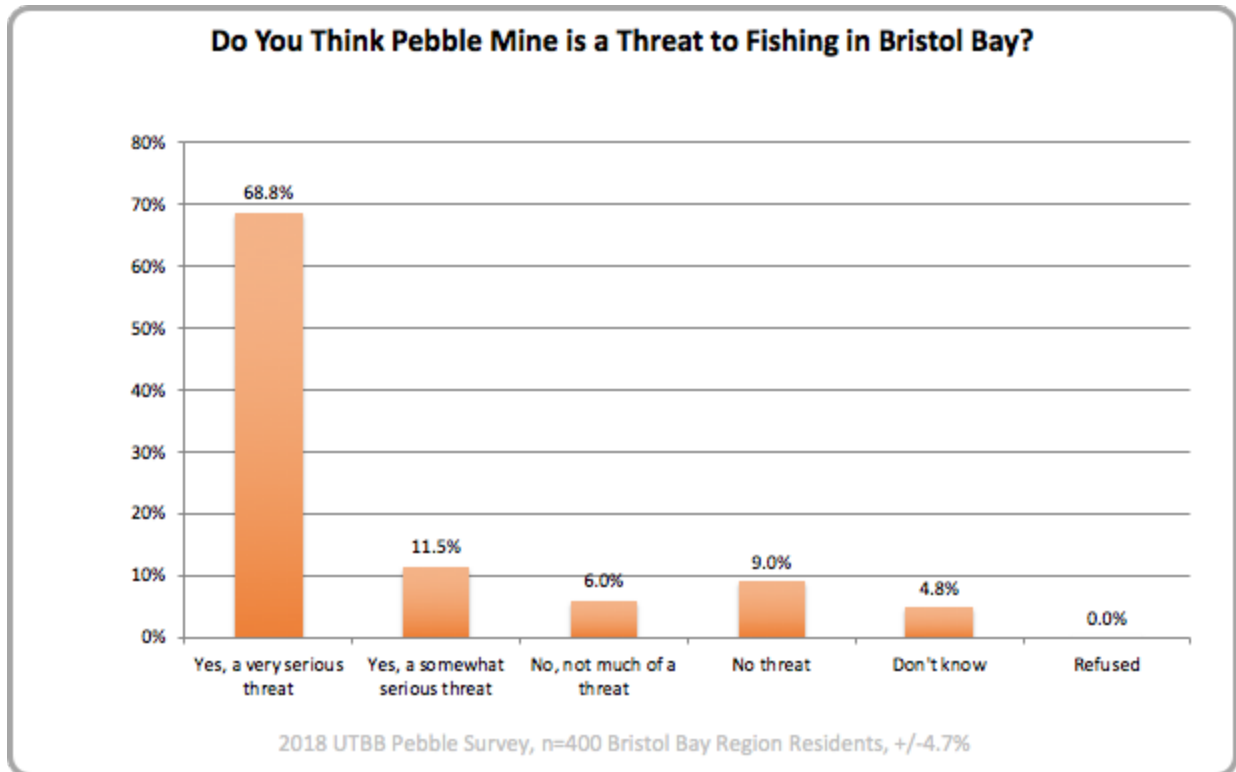
Strongly support	32/400	8.0%
Somewhat support	18/400	4.5%
Neutral, no opinion	40/400	10.0%
Somewhat oppose	21/400	5.3%
Strongly oppose	280/400	70.0%
Don't know (do not read)	9/400	2.3%
Refused (do not read)	0/400	0.0%



Question 2 – Threat to Fishing in Bristol Bay

Do you think the proposed Pebble Mine poses a threat to commercial, sport, and subsistence (sub-SIS-tense) fishing in Bristol Bay? (IF Yes, ask “is that threat very serious, or somewhat serious?”) (If No, ask “is that not much of a threat, or no threat?”)

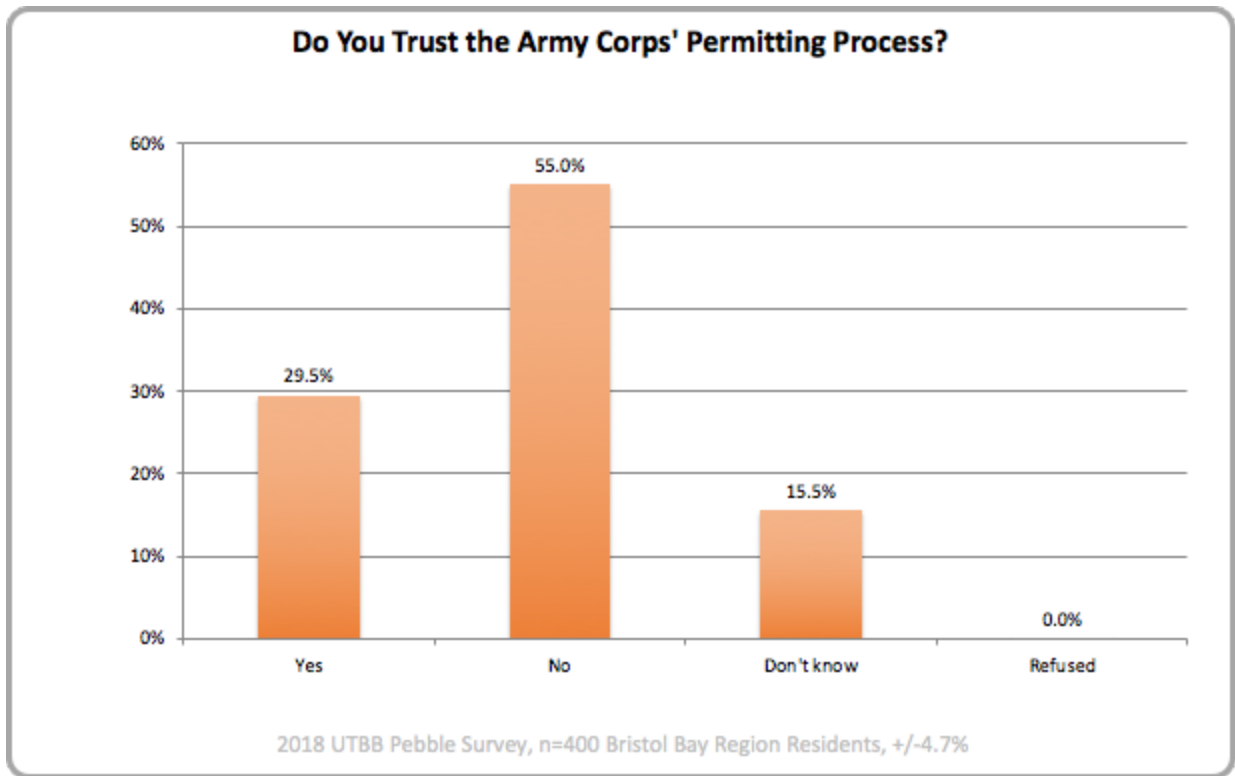
Yes, a very serious threat	275/400	68.8%
Yes, a somewhat serious threat	46/400	11.5%
No, not much of a threat	24/400	6.0%
No threat	36/400	9.0%
Don't know (do not read)	19/400	4.8%
Refused (do not read)	0/400	0.0%



Question 3 – Army Corps’ Permitting Process

The Pebble Partnership has applied for a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Army Corps says it will issue a final decision by early 2020. The Pebble Partnership is asking residents to trust the process. Do you trust the Army Corps’ permitting process to protect the watershed, the fish, and the economy in Bristol Bay?

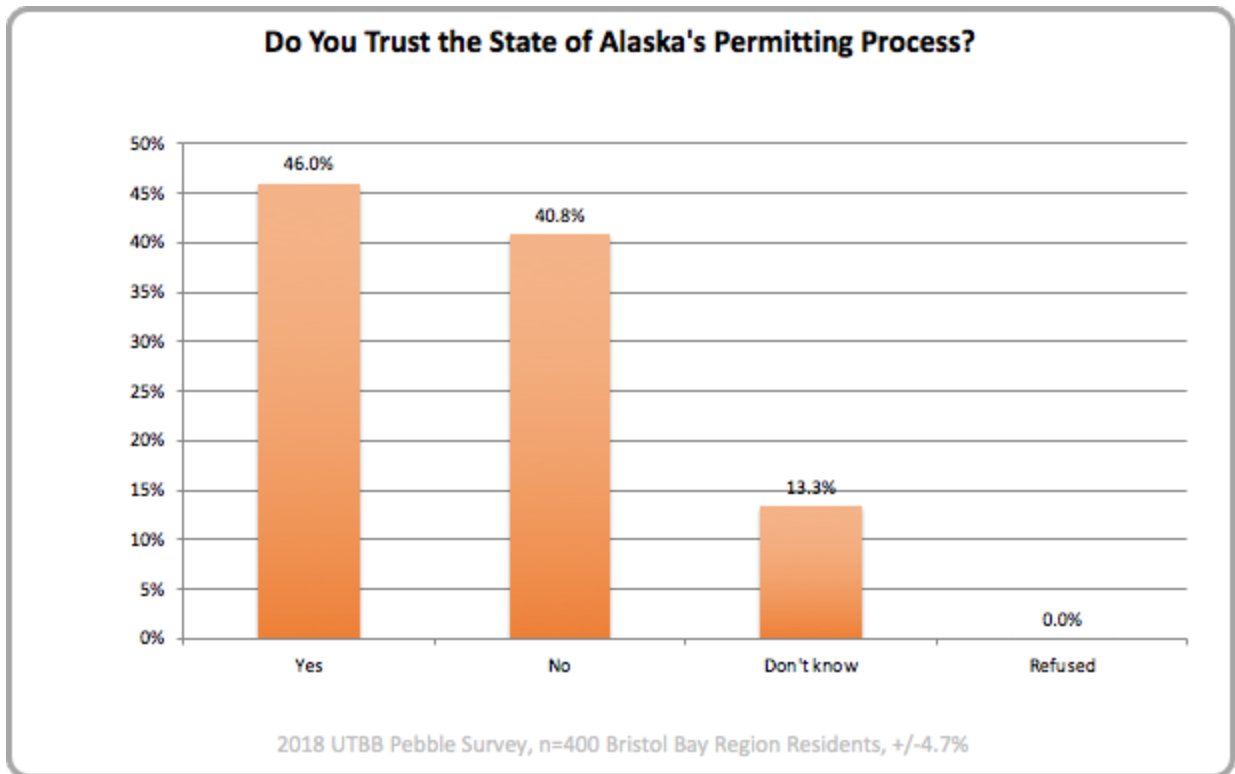
Yes	118/400	29.5%
No	220/400	55.0%
Don't know (do not read)	62/400	15.5%
Refused (do not read)	0/400	0.0%



Question 4 – State of Alaska’s Permitting Process

Do you trust the State of Alaska’s permitting process to protect the watershed, the fish, and the economy in Bristol Bay?

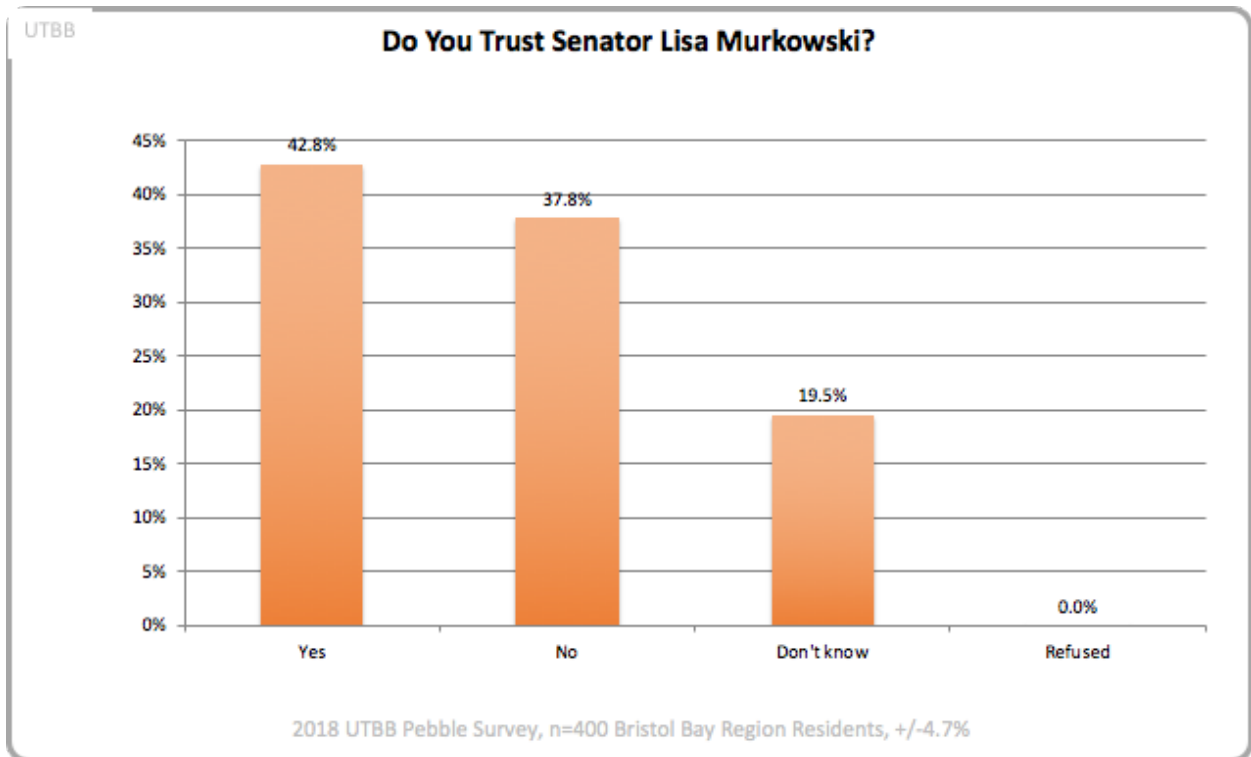
Yes	184/400	46.0%
No	163/400	40.8%
Don't know (do not read)	53/400	13.3%
Refused (do not read)	0/400	0.0%



Question 5 – Senator Lisa Murkowski

Do you trust Senator Lisa Murkowski (mur-COW-ski) to protect the watershed, the fish, and the economy in Bristol Bay?

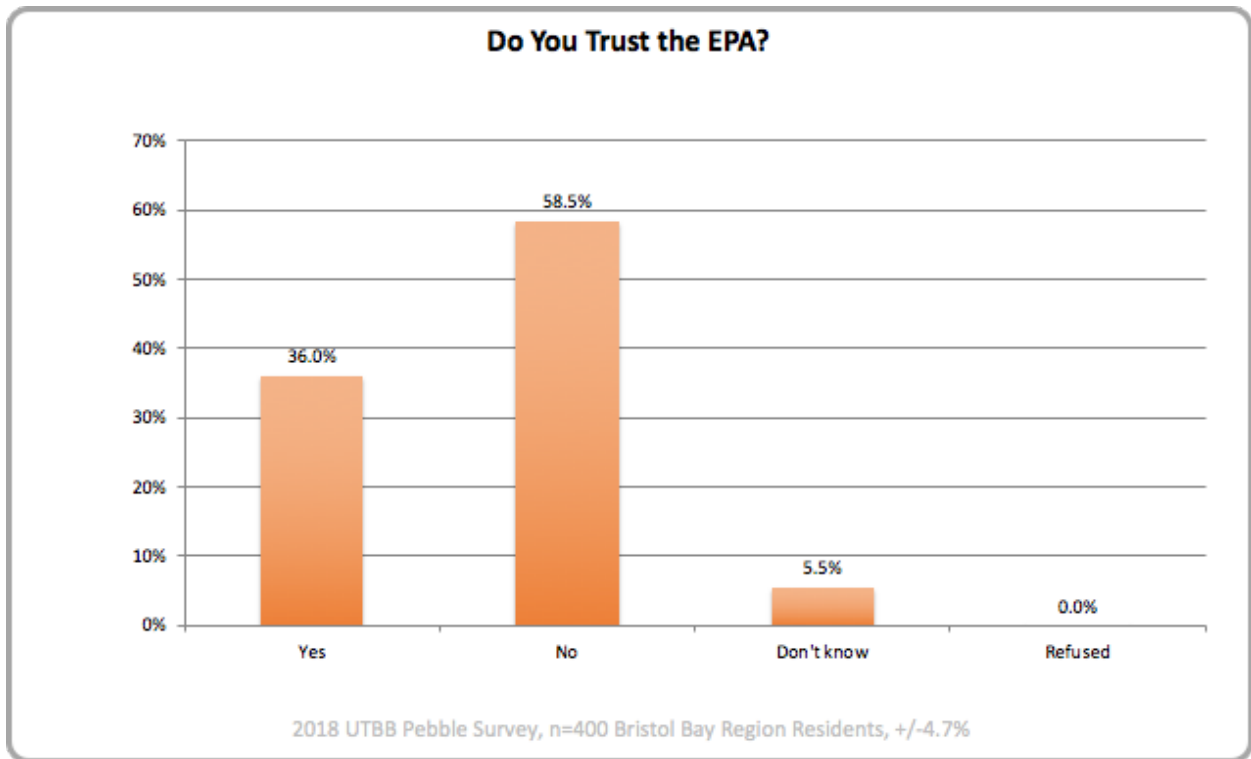
Yes	171/400	42.8%
No	151/400	37.8%
Don't know (do not read)	78/400	19.5%
Refused (do not read)	0/400	0.0%



Question 6 – The EPA

Under the Obama administration, the EPA proposed restrictions on the Pebble Mine to protect Bristol Bay. Under the Trump administration, the EPA proposed reversing those restrictions. Do you trust EPA under the current administration to protect the watershed, the fish, and the economy in Bristol Bay?

Yes	144/400	36.0%
No	234/400	58.5%
Don't know (do not read)	22/400	5.5%
Refused (do not read)	0/400	0.0%



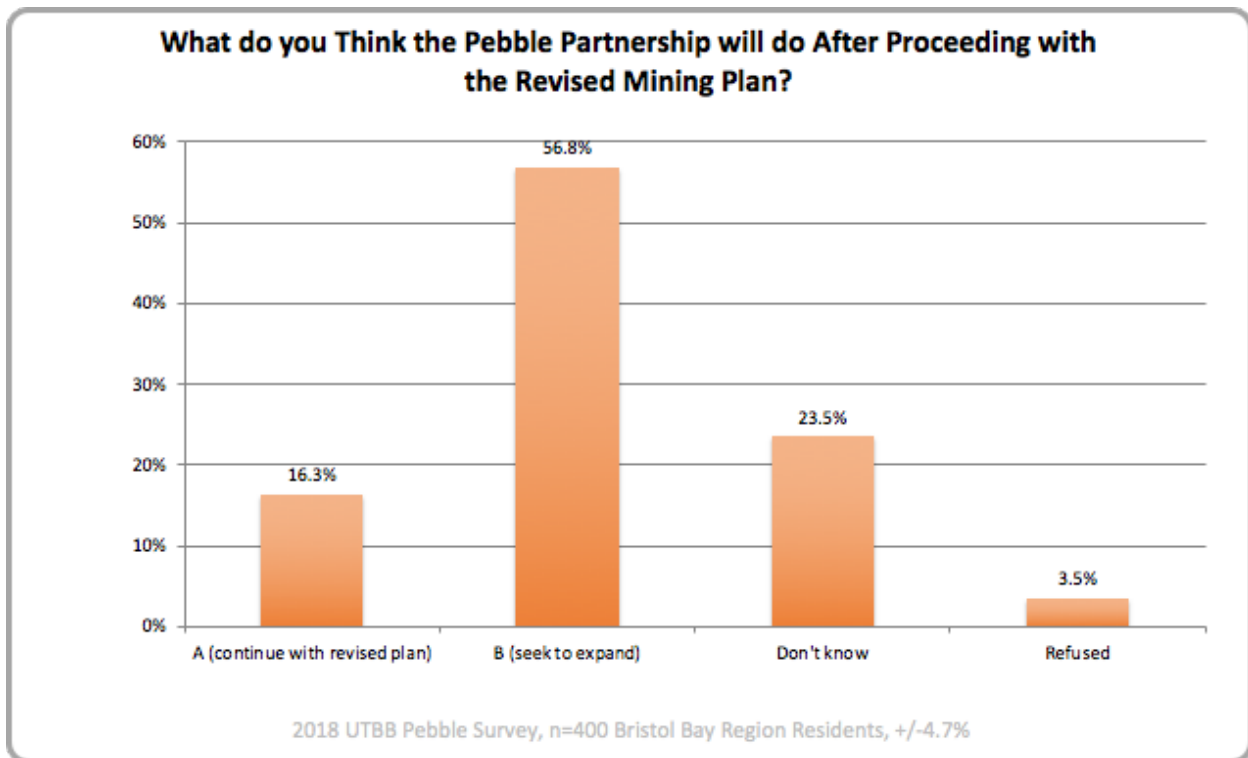
Question 7 – Revised Mine Plan

The Pebble Partnership has submitted a permit application for a revised mine plan that is one-tenth of the size of the original mine proposal. Please tell me which of the two following statements you agree with. (rotate options in survey script)

A. Pebble will continue with this revised project and only develop one-tenth of the available resources.

B. Pebble will seek to expand to develop all resources after it has built the initial infrastructure.

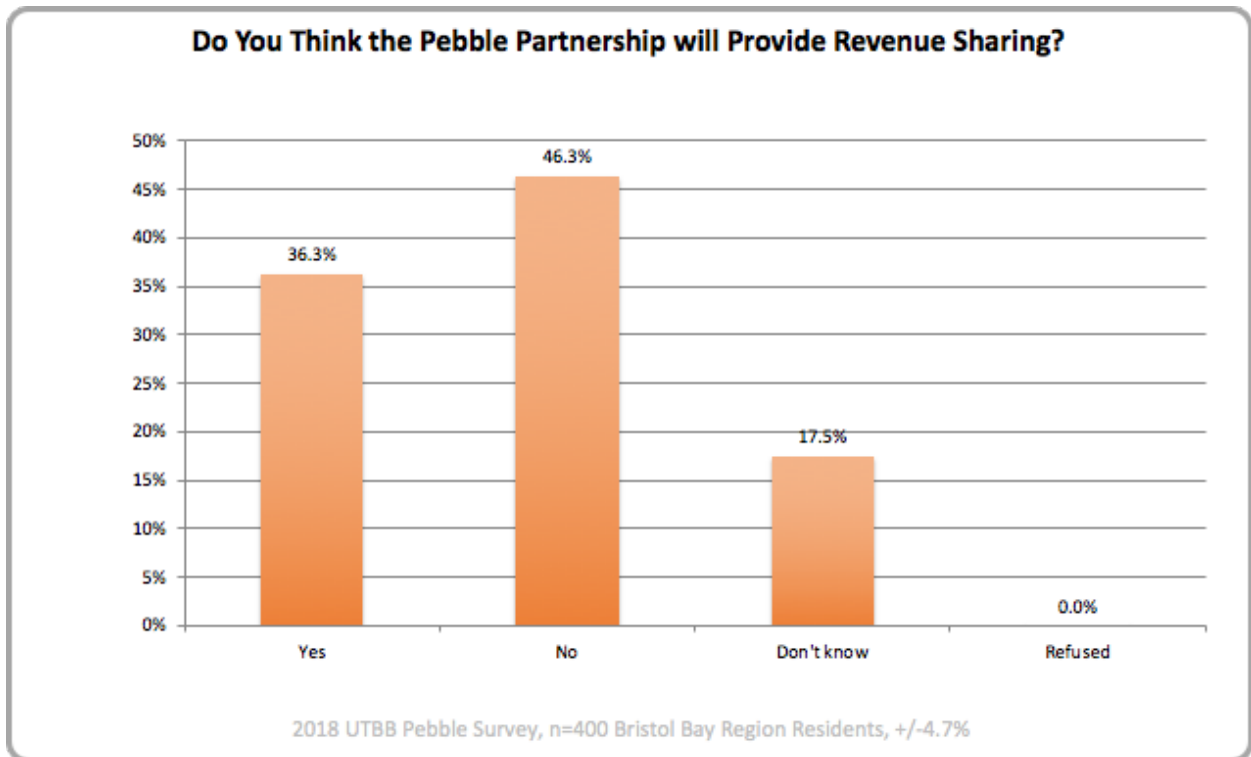
A (continue with revised plan)	65/400	16.3%
B (seek to expand)	227/400	56.8%
Don't know (do not read)	94/400	23.5%
Refused (do not read)	14/400	3.5%



Question 8 – Revenue Sharing with Local Residents

Do you think that the Pebble Partnership will provide some form of revenue sharing with local residents?

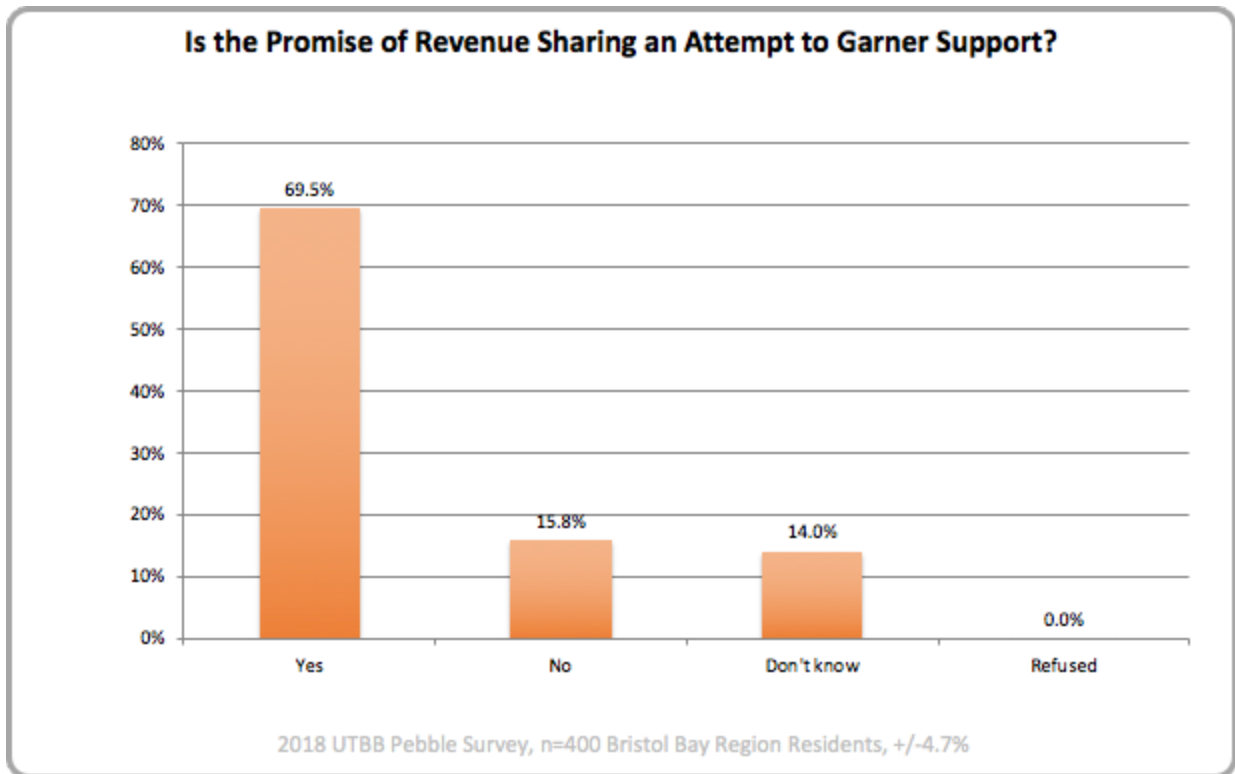
Yes	145/400	36.3%
No	185/400	46.3%
Don't know (do not read)	70/400	17.5%
Refused (do not read)	0/400	0.0%



Question 9 – Revenue Sharing to Garner Support

Do you think the Pebble Partnership is using the promise of revenue sharing as an attempt to garner support from local residents?

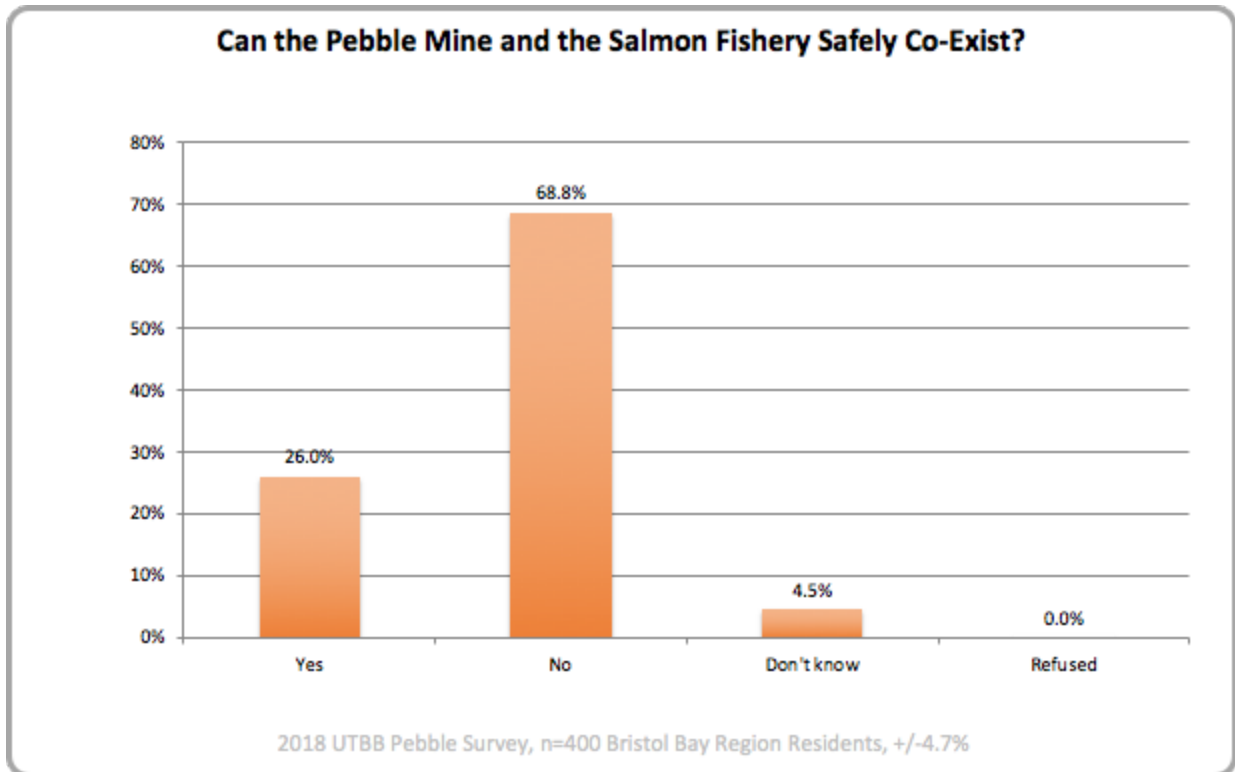
Yes	278/400	69.5%
No	63/400	15.8%
Don't know (do not read)	56/400	14.0%
Refused (do not read)	0/400	0.0%



Question 10 – Pebble Mine and Salmon Fishery

Do you believe that the Pebble Mine and Bristol Bay salmon fishery can safely co-exist?

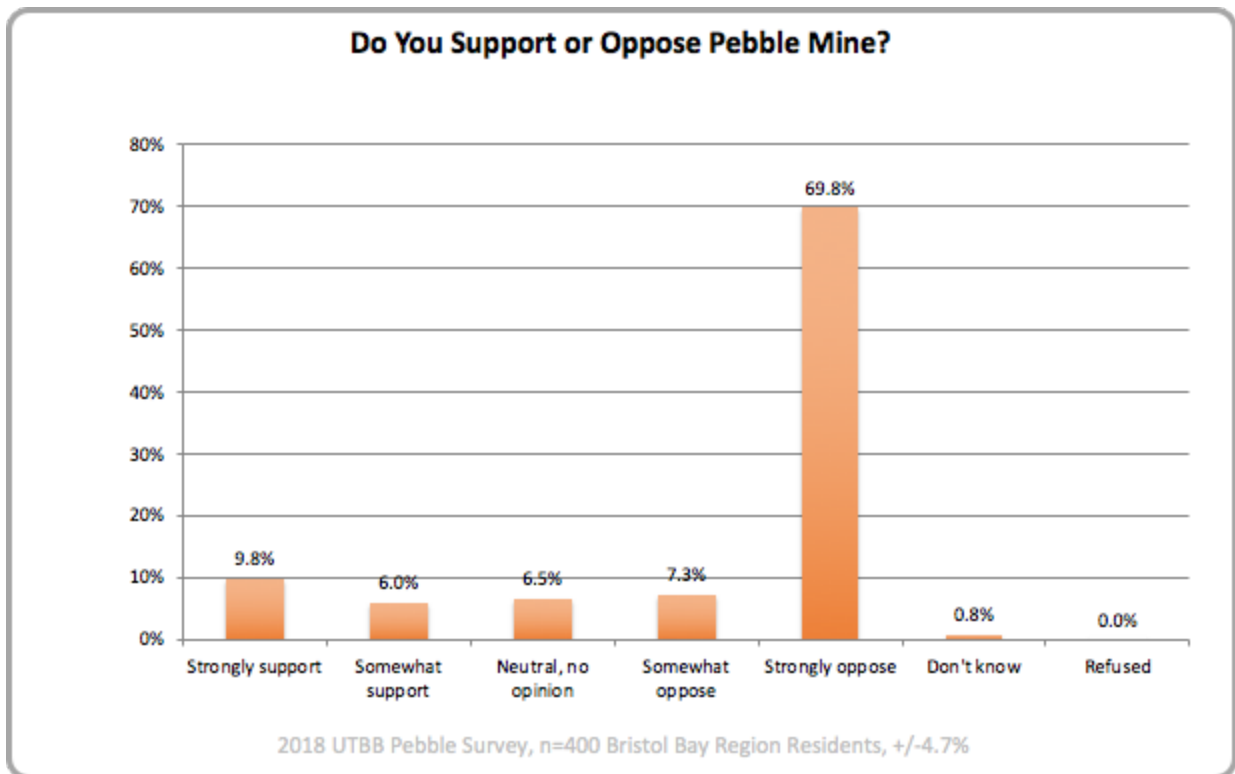
Yes	104/400	26.0%
No	275/400	68.8%
Don't know (do not read)	18/400	4.5%
Refused (do not read)	3/400	0.8%



Question 11 – Support or Oppose Pebble Mine

Let me ask you again, do you support or oppose developing the Pebble Mine? (If support or oppose, ask is that strongly support/oppose or somewhat support/oppose?)

Strongly support	39/400	9.8%
Somewhat support	24/400	6.0%
Neutral, no opinion	26/400	6.5%
Somewhat oppose	29/400	7.3%
Strongly oppose	279/400	69.8%
Don't know (do not read)	3/400	0.8%
Refused (do not read)	0/400	0.0%



Closing Statement

Those are all the questions I have. Thank you for your time.

