Brian Kraft – Bio

I grew up in the western suburbs of Chicago. I played hockey and other sports but never did much fishing or outdoor activity. I received a scholarship to play NCAA Div. 1 Ice Hockey at the University of Alaska Anchorage. I remained in Alaska each summer, working as a on the oil rigs as a roughneck on the north slope of Alaska. The job allowed me to have 2 weeks off each month and this is where I learned to fish and all about the salmon runs of Alaska. I graduated with a BA Marketing Degree in 1991. After a short stint playing professionally in Europe, I returned to Alaska to start my raft rental and guiding company called Kraft Adventures. This company outfitted anglers with rafts to take and do float trips with throughout Alaska as well as offering guiding services on remote rivers with trips lasting anywhere from 3-10 days. The US Government seized a lodge in 1994 and enlisted me to run the lodge for the summer of 1994 and 1995. I received my pilot’s license in 1994 and in 1996 was a pilot guide for various lodges in the Bristol Bay area of Alaska. We built Alaska Sportsman’s Lodge in 1997 on the Kvichak River about 4 miles downstream from Lake Iliamna. I along with my partner, David Sandlin, purchased 3 more lodges over the next 15 seasons—two more in the Bristol Bay area and one on Kodiak Island.

I started the Bristol Bay Alliance in 2004 to help educated the people of Bristol Bay about large scale open pit mining. I served as the President of this organization until 2008.

I worked for Trout Unlimited from 2006 through 2010 and still volunteer time to Trout Unlimited and other organizations towards fighting Pebble

I was a founding member and board member of the Renewable Resource Coalition which help elevate the awareness of the dire consequences of a project like Pebble going into the Bristol Bay watershed.

I am currently the president of the Katmai Service Providers organization which represents the lodge operations, air taxi’s, bear viewing companies, and guides in the greater Bristol Bay region. We have over 50 paid members in the Katmai Service Providers.

I am married and have four daughters.