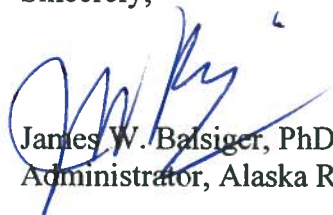


We are committed to working with the Council and the State to develop a transparent process to ensure that the data and methods used in the 3-System Index continue to incorporate the best available scientific information and provide a reliable indicator of Chinook salmon abundance.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Gretchen Harrington on my staff at gretchen.harrington@noaa.gov, or (907) 586-7228.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Balsiger', is written over the typed name and title.

James W. Balsiger, PhD.
Administrator, Alaska Region