



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

April 15, 2019

Representative Geran Tarr
State of Alaska House of Representatives
House Resources Committee
Room 126 Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Tarr,

I want to thank you for sponsoring House Resolution 8, which recognizes 2019 as the International Year of the Salmon and supports the associated global initiative.

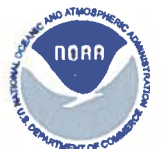
As you know, NOAA Fisheries supports and is participating in the coordinated development of the International Year of the Salmon initiative that is sponsored by the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO).

The overall theme of the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) is "*Salmon and people in a changing world.*" The extraordinary life histories of salmon expose them to many environmental and anthropogenic factors influencing their health and abundance. The IYS seeks to raise awareness of what humans can do to better ensure salmon and their varied habitats are conserved and restored. The initiative envisions an expansion of salmon research efforts on the high seas and nearshore waters, as well as a full year of education, outreach, and public engagement focused on these incredible animals, their habitats, and our stewardship of them.

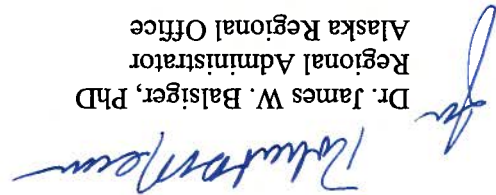
In Alaska, salmon is our lifeblood—essential to the Alaskan way of life. The Alaskan salmon fishery, capably managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, plays an integral role in the world's salmon production and is the most valuable commercial fishery managed by the State of Alaska. Sustaining Alaska's wild salmon populations is essential to preserving salmon cultures that have existed for hundreds and thousands of years.

The International Year of the Salmon is an opportunity for NOAA Fisheries to showcase the salmon programs on the east and west coasts. The initiative is underway, and preliminary information is posted on the NASCO website <http://www.nasco.int/> or the NPAFC website <http://www.npafc.org/>. IYS provides a platform for advancing our understanding of the species, but also for promoting conservation, restoration, community support, and ocean literacy. In addition, this initiative provides a great opportunity to highlight NOAA's Species in the Spotlight and Habitat Focus Area programs.

Salmon affect more people culturally, economically, and recreationally than any other fish species. Understanding how a changing climate may influence their ocean and freshwater habitats, distributions, and productivity is an increasingly important and pressing concern to fishery management agencies, the



With gratitude,
fishing industry, Tribes, and the general public. NOAA Fisheries greatly appreciates your support of this resolution and the increased awareness, support, and engagement that it will provide.


Dr. James W. Balsiger, PhD
Regional Administrator
Alaska Regional Office