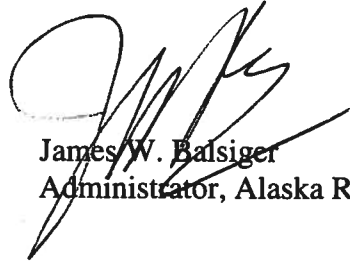


We recommend the Council initiate a determination as to whether the sport fishery for salmon in the West Area EEZ requires conservation and management. The Council could decide to undertake this determination in the FMP amendment currently being prepared for the Cook Inlet Area and the commercial salmon fishery that occurs within it, or the Council could decide to undertake this determination at a later time. In making this determination, the Council should consider NMFS's regulatory guidance on stocks and fisheries that require conservation and management at 50 C.F.R. section 600.305(c).

Sincerely,

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

James W. Balsiger
Administrator, Alaska Region