

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

I'm writing to let you know that at the end of the current academic year (June 30, 2016) I will be retiring from the University of Alaska Anchorage and as Director of the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER).

Although I will be retiring, I will remain actively engaged with ISER part-time. In particular, I will continue to lead ISER's research and public engagement on the pressing fiscal challenges facing Alaska. I am committed to ensuring that this very important work continues. I will also continue my decades-long research on Alaska's salmon industry and salmon markets.

I have worked at ISER for 35 years—my entire career. I feel immensely lucky at the opportunities I have had to work with so many talented and dedicated colleagues, to study so many fascinating and important issues, and to spend the final three years of my career as Director. I can't imagine a more interesting and rewarding career than studying and teaching about Alaska's resources, economy and society.

My retirement is a long-planned decision, long ago promised to my family and myself at this time. I am retiring because there are so many other things that I still want to do which I don't have time for while working full time with the significant administrative responsibilities of the ISER Director. Most importantly, I need to spend more time with my family. Before I get too much older and slower, I want to do a lot more skiing, biking, hiking and enjoying the beauty of Alaska which so entranced me when I first came here. I want to play a lot more music. And I want to finally finish my book on the Economics of Fish (and a lot of other long-delayed writing projects).

ISER is very important to Alaska. We need to maintain and build the capacity of ISER and the University of Alaska for objective and critical research and education about the economy and society of Alaska and the Arctic and the very important and challenging policy issues we are facing. I am confident we can and will do this, and I am very excited about the excellent younger researchers ISER has hired in the past few years and the contributions I am sure they will make to our understanding of Alaska.

To all of you who have offered me your support and encouragement and advice and friendship over my career, I am immensely grateful. Thank you! I look forward to working with you in the future, in a changed but still very active role—as many “retired” ISER directors and faculty have done in the past.

--Gunnar