

April 7, 2016

Representative Geran Tarr
State Capitol
Room 409
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Tarr:

I urge the Alaska State Legislature to pass House Joint Resolution 28, opposing the recent approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of genetically engineered salmon (GE). It is a timely resolution that supports the sustainable fishing industry in Alaska and Senator Murkowski's work at the federal level to ensure genetically salmon are properly labeled.

The State of Alaska prides itself in producing the highest quality wild seafood. The commercial fishing industry is the largest private sector employer and annual seafood exports are worth over \$3.25 billion. Residents fill their freezers and smoke houses with healthy, wild seafood. This industry and way of life would be jeopardized with the accidental release of transgenic fish into the wild.

Escape by these salmon into marine ecosystems would pose a wide range of environmental and ecological threats beyond those of conventional salmon ([Naylor et al. 2005](#)) grown in farms ([Krkosek et al. 2007](#)) and ocean pens ([Vester and Timme 2010](#)). Larger fish at a given age or season may out-compete wild salmon, potentially reducing individual or population growth rates. Predator-prey dynamics could be disrupted both through lethal and nonlethal means. The larger-at-age engineered salmon are likely to be more effective predators. Importantly, even in the absence of lethal effects, the mere presence of larger fish predators has been shown to alter prey behavior, causing trophic cascades in marine systems that can dramatically alter seafloor structure. Such ecosystem alterations could potentially have unanticipated repercussions throughout the food web.*

The fact that no Environmental Impact Study was done to determine the safety of these fish to the ocean ecosystem, wild fish populations or human health is very troubling.

In the State of Alaska, where sustainable wild caught seafood is such an important part of life, opposing the approval of GE salmon is the right thing to do for both consumers and the fishing industry.

I support your efforts to ensure wild Alaskan salmon and the thriving fishing industry are protected from GE salmon.

Sincerely,

Wayne Jenkins, Homer Alaska

* [Oxford Journals, Science & Mathematics, BioScience, Volume 61, Issue 1, Pp. 6](#)