

February 1, 2013

Alaska State Legislature  
House Fisheries Committee  
Representative Paul Seaton, Chair  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99811

**RE: SUPPORT HJR 5, OPPOSING GENETICALLY MODIFIED SALMON**

Dear Chairman Seaton and Fisheries Committee Members,

The Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) is a diverse group of over 100 commercial fishermen and businesses based in Alaska. Our members provide millions of meals to the public annually by participating in a variety of fisheries statewide with our foremost interest being the commercial halibut and sablefish fisheries managed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. PVOA appreciates the opportunity to comment on HJR 5.

**PVOA supports the passage of HJR 5.** PVOA is already on record with the Food and Drug Administration opposing the development and marketing of GE Salmon. Alaska leads the world in sustainable fishery management practices and the Alaska seafood industry has gone to great effort and expense to differentiate our seafood products in the marketplace. **We oppose allowing genetically engineered (GE) salmon to be sold in the U.S. at all.** However, if GE salmon, or any GE salmon products are allowed to be sold in the U.S. then those products must be clearly and distinctly labeled as being genetically modified. We are particularly concerned that if GE salmon is allowed to be sold in the U.S. Alaska fishermen and coastal communities will suffer job losses and economic hardship due to consumer confusion about the origins and wholesomeness of salmon in general.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this resolution. If we can provide further information or answer any questions as you make this important decision, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Brian Lynch  
Executive Director