



House Fisheries Committee  
Representative Stutes, Chair  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK 99801

**RE: Support HJR 12** Opposing Genetically Engineered Salmon

Dear Committee Members,

**Southeast Alaska Seiners Association (SEAS) supports HJR 12 that opposes GMO salmon and requires prominently labeling genetically engineered products, "Genetically Modified".** We support the efforts HJR 12 makes to address the numerous threats that GMO salmon present to Alaska fishermen, the economy of the State of Alaska, and the general public.

SEAS adamantly opposed the United States Food and Drug Administration's approval of genetically engineered salmon. The State of Alaska and an exhaustive list of organizations with diverse fishing interests have spent decades and countless millions of dollars to protect the sustainability, promote the health benefits of consuming wild salmon, and developing robust markets for our products. GMO products threaten the very core of this foundation. The general public at the very least has the right to be able to differentiate all GMO products from other propagated and especially "wild caught" products; and the protection of existing fisheries demands the labeling of such products.

SEAS has represented the interest and concerns of SE Alaska Purse Seine fishermen since 1968. Our membership, concerns, and priorities have varied over these 50 odd years, but one thing has always remained central; that we maintain a system that allows for a sustainable harvest of our fisheries resources that provides economic opportunity to our coastal communities and viability to future generations. We believe GMO products threaten that very principle.

Thank you for your consideration,

*Susan Doherty*

Executive Director