

## **AK First State to Require Labeling of GM Fish**

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Alaska has become the first state to enact a law requiring the labeling of certain genetically modified food. NCEL participant, State Senator Kim Elton, sponsored the bill, [SB25](#), which was signed into law on May 19, 2005. The new law requires genetically modified fish or fish product to be conspicuously labeled as genetically modified. According to the [Center for Food Safety](#), Senator Elton's legislation is the first such law passed in the country requiring labeling of genetically engineered food.

Senator Elton and NCEL participant Representative Beth Kerttula also worked to pass a resolution, [HJR15](#), opposing open ocean fish farming and urging Congress to prohibit the issuance of any license to permit fish farming in federal waters. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, part of the Department of Commerce, is currently working on legislation to help foster ocean fish farming in federal waters (3 to 200 miles offshore), regulations that could have a far-reaching effect on the Alaska seafood industry. Alaska state law prohibits finfish farming.

In 2001, Maryland NCEL participant Delegate Dan Morhaim sponsored [HB189](#), which was enacted, banning for at least five years the raising of genetically modified fish unless they are in ponds or lakes that do not connect to other state waterways. Growers also must ensure that the fish cannot escape. To view the Maryland law, use this link: .

California, Oregon and Washington have similar bans on genetically modified fish from being raised in state waterways. Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, and Wisconsin also regulate transgenic fish. The attached chart provides a summary and links to genetically modified fish regulations around the country. If you have an update to the list, please notify NCEL.