

# HJR 5: No to GM Salmon



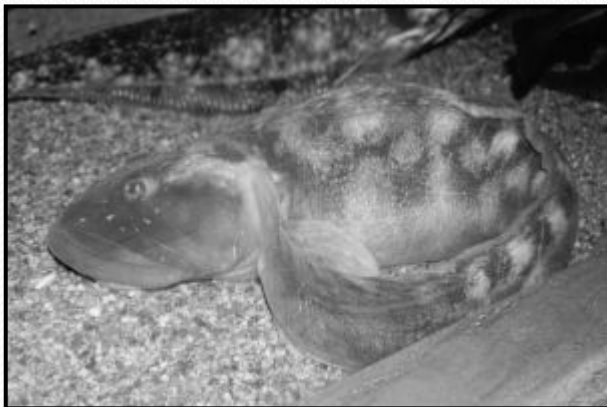


# Significance of this decision

- Final stage of approval
- First time FDA would approve a genetically modified (GM) organism for human consumption

# What is GM salmon?

- Genetically modified using fast growing Atlantic salmon and DNA from two other species of fish
  - Ocean pout (an eel like fish)
  - Chinook salmon (King)





# How does it work?

- Chinook DNA makes the GE fish grow bigger faster
- Ocean pout DNA makes it grow year-round



- The DNA of the top fish has been genetically engineered to continually produce growth hormones for its entire life
- GM salmon grow to full size twice as fast



# Need for Action

- December 2012 announcement by FDA that genetically modified salmon pose no significant threat (FONSI)
- Comments being accepted until February 25, 2013
- Legislature would join Governor Parnell, Senators Mark Begich and Lisa Murkowski, and Representative Don Young in opposing this application





# Concerns about GM salmon

- Possible effects of GM salmon
  - Threat to wild salmon
  - Risks to human health
  - Risk to state's economy



# Threat to Wild Salmon

- Escapement poses a threat
- Reports from Alaska fisherman that they have caught farmed Atlantic salmon that was reared in Washington and British Columbia
- Risks were recognized by the USFWS and NOAA



# Threat to Wild Salmon

- GM salmon can spread disease
- More aggressive, can out compete wild salmon
- Cross breed with wild fish





# Risks to Human Health

- People who eat the GMO salmon will be eating the foreign DNA, along with the growth hormones.
- The FDA has not conducted sufficient long term safety testing to determine that genetically engineered salmon is safe to eat and that long- term consumption does not pose health risks
- Vulnerable populations: children and expectant mothers.



# Risk to State's Economy

- Look back to introduction of farmed salmon
- Significant investments in marketing and branding for health benefits
- Could undermine confidence in Alaska wild salmon
- Second largest private sector employer with over 70,000 jobs



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Questions?