

February 3, 2016

Representative Louise Stutes
Chair, House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislation
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811-1182
Email: Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov

RE: PVOA Supports HJR 28-Opposing the United States Food and Drug Administration's approval of AquaBounty AquaAdvantage genetically engineered salmon

Dear Chair Stutes and Committee Members,

Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association (PVOA) is composed of almost 100 members participating in a wide variety of species and gear type fisheries. An additional thirty businesses supportive to our industry are members. Our members fish throughout Alaska from Southeast to the Bering Sea. Targeted species include salmon, herring, halibut, sablefish, cod, crab, and shrimp.

PVOA's mission statement is to:

"Promote the economic viability of the commercial fishing fleet in Petersburg, promote the conservation and rational management of North Pacific resources, and advocate the need for protection of fisheries habitat."

As our mission statement reads, PVOA's main focus is on the conservation and management of our State's fishery resources. **Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association supports HJR 28 that would prohibit the sale of genetically modified salmon in Alaska and urge the U.S. Congress to enact legislation requiring proper labeling of genetically engineered seafood.**

Alaska is a world leader in sustainable wild fishery management. Fishing and seafood processing jobs are the largest job sector in Petersburg and many other coastal communities in Southeast Alaska. PVOA has three major concerns with genetically modified salmon:

1. The long-term affects of consuming genetically modified salmon are not yet known.
2. Our fisheries would be endangered if transgenic fish escaped into the wild.
3. If genetically modified salmon is sold in the U.S. unlabeled, Alaska fishermen and coastal communities will suffer economically from miss-informed consumers.

PVOA supports HJR 28 and appreciates the Alaska State Legislatures support and protection of the Alaska fisheries resource.

Respectfully,



Megan O'Neil
Executive Director
CC: Representative Geran Tarr