

February 27, 2017

Representative Louise Stutes
Chair, House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislation
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811-1182

RE: PVOA Supports HJR 12-Opposing the United States Food and Drug Administration's approval of AquaBounty AquAdvantage genetically engineered salmon...

Dear Chair Stutes and Committee Members,

Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association (PVOA) is composed of over 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 HJR12 that opposes the FDA's approval of AquaBounty genetically engineered salmon and urges the U.S. Congress to enact legislation requiring proper labeling of genetically engineered salmon.**

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.

In closing, PVOA supports HJR12 and thanks the Alaska State Legislature for their support and protection of Alaska's fisheries resource.

Respectfully,



Megan O'Neil
Executive Director