

(LIMITED RUN SHOWING ALL ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIPS)

**CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5(FSH)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Offered: 2/13/13

Referred: Resources

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES TARR, Kawasaki, Austerman, Reinbold, Tuck, Kerttula, Kreiss-Tomkins, Nageak, Gara, Peggy Wilson, Edgmon, Foster, Herron, Gruenberg, LeDoux, Olson, Josephson, Millett, Holmes, Drummond, Isaacson, Johnson, Muñoz, Chenault, Higgins, Tammie Wilson, Gattis, Costello, Hughes, Pruitt, Thompson, Lynn, Neuman, Feige

SENATORS Wielechowski, Micciche, Ellis, Gardner, Egan, Dyson, McGuire, Coghill, Giessel, Fairclough, Hoffman, Stedman, Meyer, Bishop, Stevens, Olson, French

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Opposing the United States Food and Drug Administration's preliminary finding**  
 2 **relating to genetically engineered salmon; urging further examination of genetically**  
 3 **engineered salmon; opposing AquaBounty's petition to produce genetically engineered**  
 4 **salmon; and proposing, if AquaBounty's petition is approved, that its product should be**  
 5 **labeled as "genetically modified."**

6 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

7 **WHEREAS** the United States Food and Drug Administration recently announced the  
 8 release of a draft environmental assessment and preliminary finding of no significant impact  
 9 concerning genetically engineered AquaBounty AquAdvantage salmon; and

10 **WHEREAS** the state has bountiful fisheries that provide wild, natural, and sustainable  
 11 seafood; and

12 **WHEREAS** Alaska seafood is naturally high in essential vitamins, including vitamins  
 13 E, C, D, and A, and minerals, including zinc, iron, calcium, and selenium; and

14 **WHEREAS** fish habitat in the state is cleaner than fish habitat in other locations; and

15 **WHEREAS** fisheries are a vital component of the state's economy; and

1           **WHEREAS** the state's fisheries are managed to ensure that Alaska seafood continues  
2 to be the finest in the world for future generations; and

3           **WHEREAS**, in 2009, 95 percent of pacific salmon landings in the United States  
4 occurred in the state; and

5           **WHEREAS**, in 2012, 124,000,000 salmon were harvested in the state, for a value of  
6 \$505,000,000; and

7           **WHEREAS** Alaska ports consistently rank among the top ports in the United States  
8 based on volume and ex-vessel value for various fisheries including salmon; and

9           **WHEREAS** the state's fishing industry provides over 70,000 jobs annually and is the  
10 second largest source of private sector employment in the state; and

11           **WHEREAS** the United States Food and Drug Administration is accepting comments  
12 on the proposal to allow, for the first time, a genetically modified organism to be sold for  
13 human consumption; and

14           **WHEREAS** the inevitable accidental release of transgenic fish into the wild could  
15 devastate native fish populations and ecosystems; and

16           **WHEREAS** citizens and public interest groups overwhelmingly oppose genetically  
17 engineered food and have submitted over 400,000 public comments opposing genetically  
18 engineered salmon; and

19           **WHEREAS** the United States Food and Drug Administration has not conducted  
20 adequate testing to determine the long-term safety of consuming genetically engineered  
21 salmon; and

22           **WHEREAS** the sale of genetically engineered salmon could imperil the state's fishing  
23 industry; and

24           **WHEREAS** seven members of the United States Senate continue to have concerns  
25 about AquaBounty's proposal and the United States Food and Drug Administration's review  
26 of the proposal; and

27           **WHEREAS** the United States Food and Drug Administration's review applies only to  
28 a limited set of production and rearing facilities and fails to consider the broader applications  
29 of this technology that would assuredly occur should final approval be granted;

30           **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Food  
31 and Drug Administration not to make a final decision regarding genetically engineered

1 salmon until the United States Congress has fully examined the issue and the potential release  
2 of genetically engineered fish into the waters of the United States; and be it

3 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature opposes AquaBounty's  
4 petition to produce AquAdvantage Salmon, a genetically engineered salmon; and be it

5 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, if the petition is approved by the United States Food  
6 and Drug Administration, despite strong environmental and human health concerns, product  
7 labeling requirements must include, as required by Alaska law, the words "Genetically  
8 Modified" prominently displayed on the front of the product's packaging.

9 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of  
10 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and  
11 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Tom Vilsack, United States Secretary of  
12 Agriculture; the Honorable Margaret Hamburg, M.D., Commissioner of Food and Drugs; and  
13 the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the  
14 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.