HJR

12

<TARGET><BILL>HJR 12</BILL><SUBJECT>HJR 12</SUBJECT><COMM>SRES30</COMM></TARGET>

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

House Joint Resolution 12: Legislation to Protect Wild Alaska Salmon and the Commercial Fishing Industry during these Challenging Economic Times

Sponsor Statement

House Joint Resolution 12 is designed to protect our wild Alaska salmon and support our thriving, sustainable fisheries. HJR 12 denounces the recent approval of AquaBounty's AquAdvantage genetically engineered salmon.

This is the first time the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved a genetically modified animal for human consumption. This FDA approval jeopardizes the sustainable commercial, sport and subsistence fisheries that are so important in Alaska.

The State of Alaska prides itself in producing the highest quality wild seafood. The commercial fishing industry is the largest private sector employer and annual seafood exports are worth over $3.25 billion. Residents fill their freezers and smoke houses with healthy wild seafood. This industry and way of life would be jeopardized with the inevitable, accidental release of transgenic fish into the wild.

In addition to the impact to the commercial, sport and subsistence fishing, the long-term health effects of consuming genetically engineered salmon are unknown. A majority of state residents oppose the approval of genetically engineered salmon and more than 2,000,000 nationwide submitted comments opposing the approval of AquaBounty's genetically engineered salmon. Additionally, 40 members of congress have voiced opposition.

HJR 12 is designed to raise awareness about the importance of wild seafood and the commercial fishing industry while highlighting the concerns regarding the long term safety of consuming genetically engineered food products.

In the State of Alaska, where sustainable wild caught seafood is such an important part of life, opposing the approval of genetically engineered salmon nationwide is the right thing to do for both consumers and the fishing industry.

January-May: State Capitol • Juneau, AK 99801-1182 • (907) 465-3424 • Fax (907) 465-3793
June-December: 716 W. 4th Avenue • Anchorage, AK 99501• (907) 269-0144• Fax (907) 269-0148
Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/6/17

FURTHER: RULES

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: _____

Resources Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12(FSH)

HJR 12-OPPOSING GEN. ENGINEERED SALMON

Opposing the United States Food and Drug Administration's approval of AquaBounty AquAdvantage genetically engineered salmon; and urging the United States Congress to enact legislation that requires prominently labeling genetically engineered salmon and salmon products with the words "Genetically Modified" on the product's packaging.

and recommends:

[ ] be **replaced** with **SCS** _____ (_____) *[ ] Same Title [ ] Technical Title Change [ ] New Title/SCR No._____*

[ ] adopt **previous SCS** _____ (_____) *[ ] Same Title [ ] Technical Title Change [ ] New Title/SCR No._____*

[ ] attached amendment(s)

[ ] adopt _____Letter of Intent

[ ] further referral to _____Committee

Dept Abbr.	
ADM	LWF
CED	LAW
COR	LEG
EED	MVA
DEC	DNR
DFG	DPS
GOV	REV
DHS	DOT
AJS	UA

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #
SRES			✓	2

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #

[ ] **APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note**

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	Wielechowski	✓			
	~~Bishop~~				
	Coghill			✓	
	Von Imhof			✓	
	Stedman			✓	
	Meyer			✓	
CHAIR:	Giessel	✓			

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2018 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HJR 12
Fiscal Note Number: 2
() Publish Date: 1/31/18

Identifier: HJR12-LEG-SESS-02-23-17
Title: OPPOSING GEN. ENGINEERED SALMON
Sponsor: TARR
Requester: HOUSE SP COMM ON FISHERIES

Department:
Appropriation:
Allocation:
OMB Component Number: 0

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2019 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2019 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	**FY 2019**	**FY 2019**	**FY 2020**	**FY 2021**	**FY 2022**	**FY 2023**	**FY 2024**
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2018) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2019) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

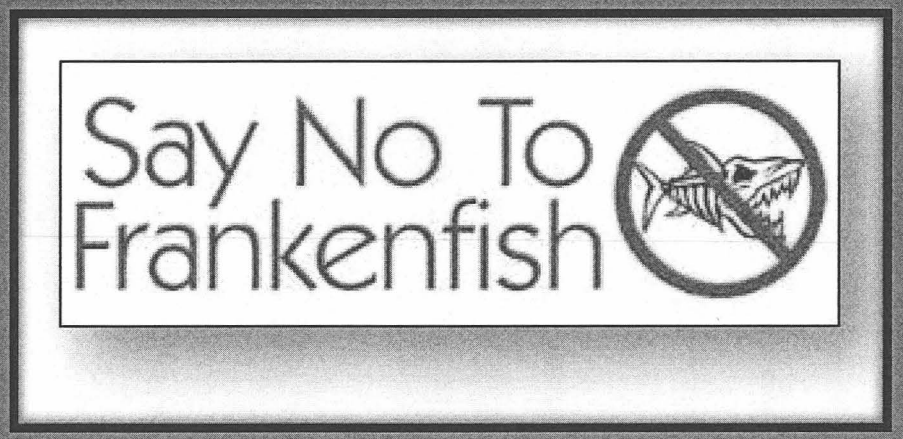
Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency?
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

INITIAL VERSION. ONE PAGE. ZERO NOTE.

Prepared By: Senator Giessel
Senate Resources Committee
Phone: (907)465-4843
Date: 01/26/2018

HJR 12: Opposing GM Salmon



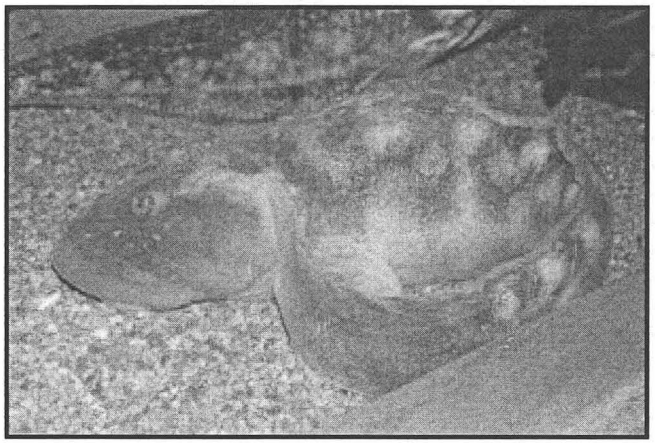
Representative Geran Tarr

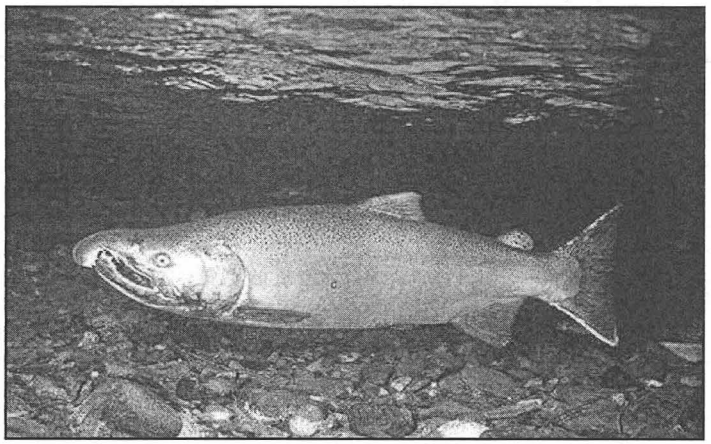
Why the need for HJR 12?

- November 19, 2015 decision by FDA to allow GM salmon
- First time FDA approved a genetically modified (GM) animal for human consumption

What is GM salmon?

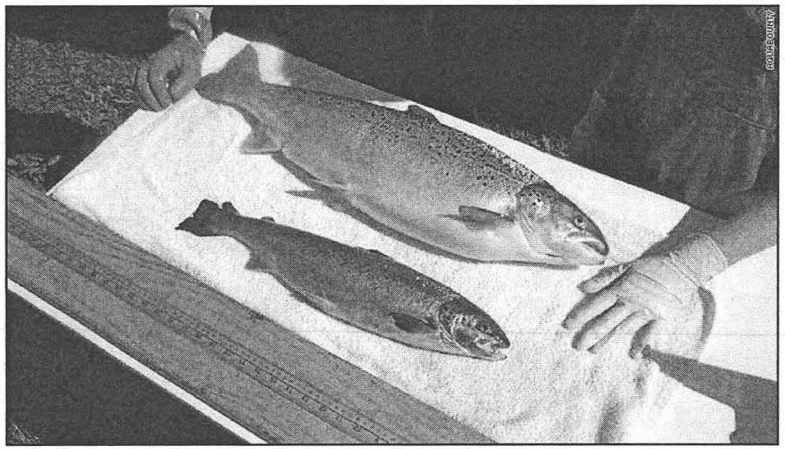
- Genetically modified using fast growing Atlantic salmon and DNA from two other species of fish
  - Ocean pout (an eel like fish)
  - Chinook salmon (King)

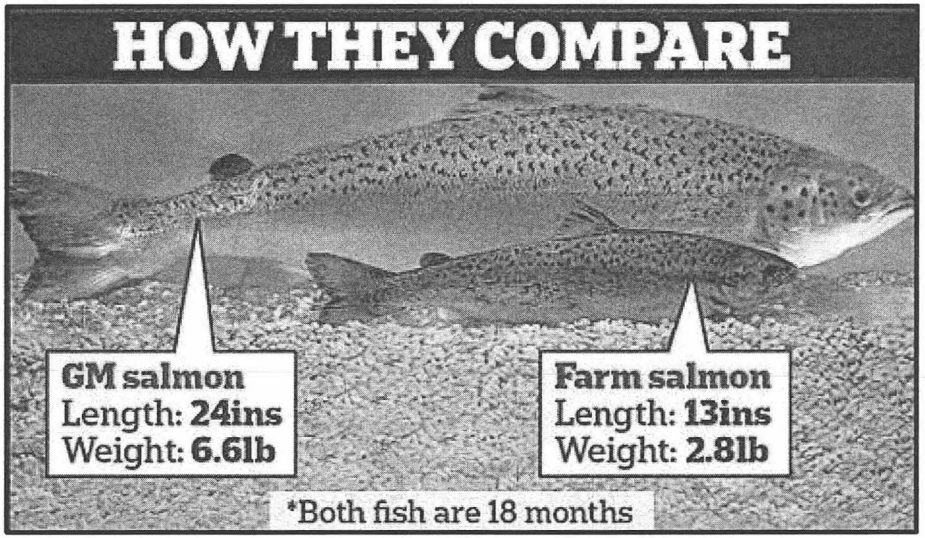




How does it work?

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

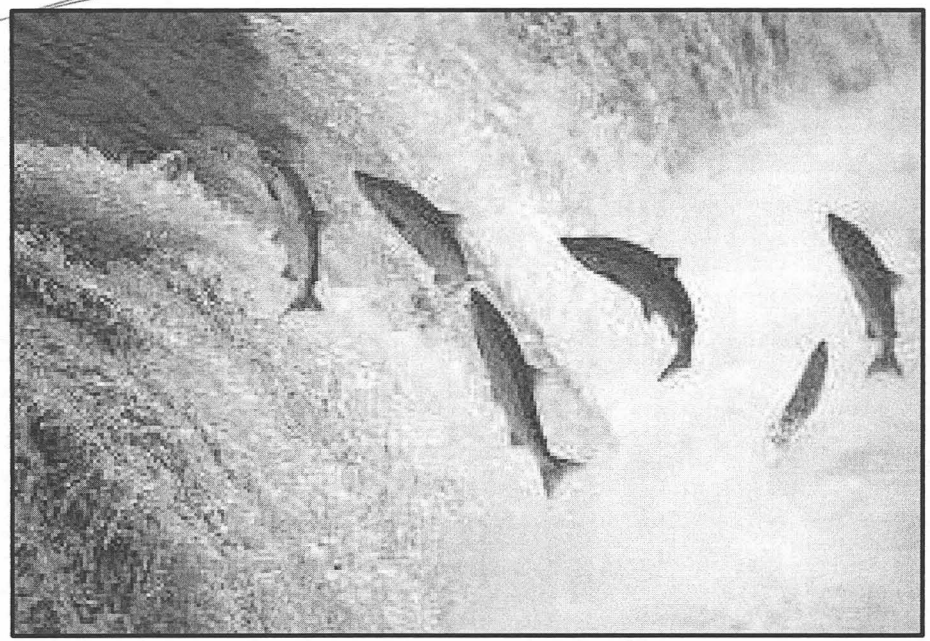


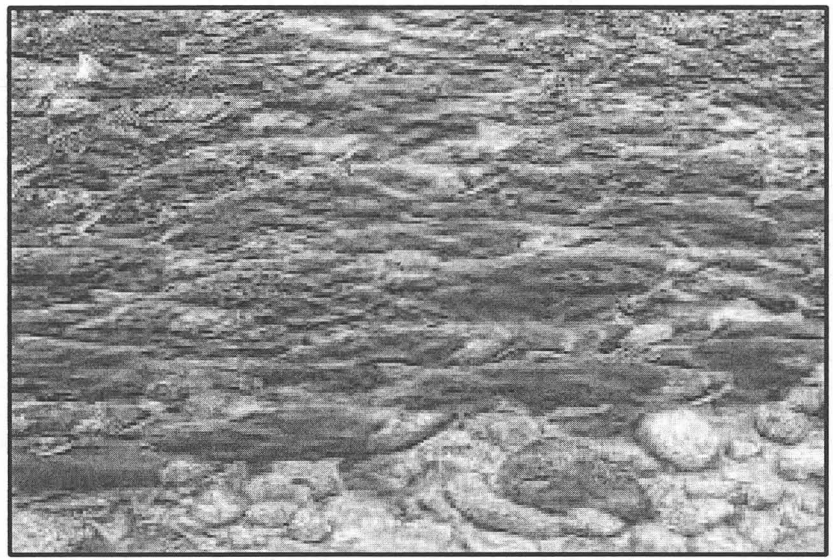


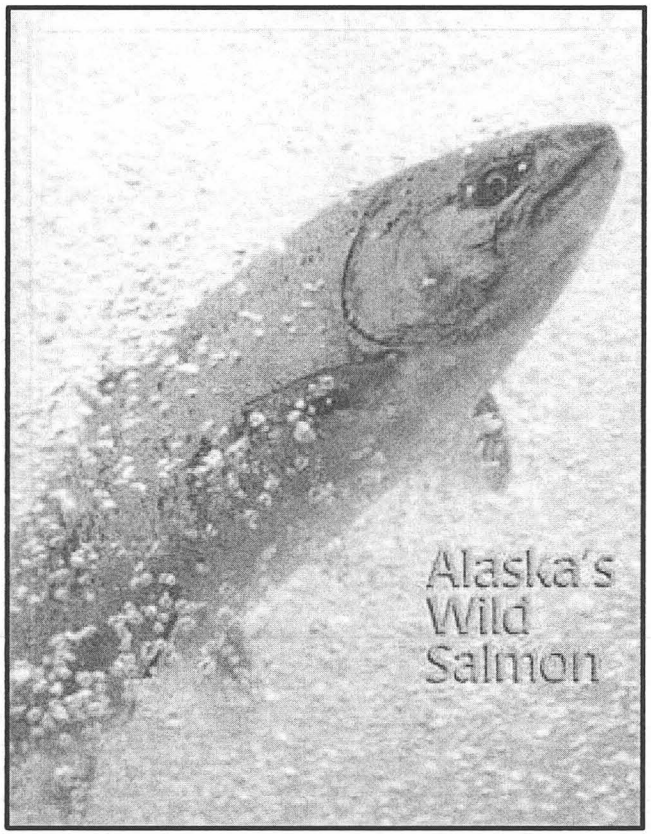
- The DNA of the top fish has been genetically engineered to continually produce growth hormones for its entire life
- GM salmon grow to full size twice as fast

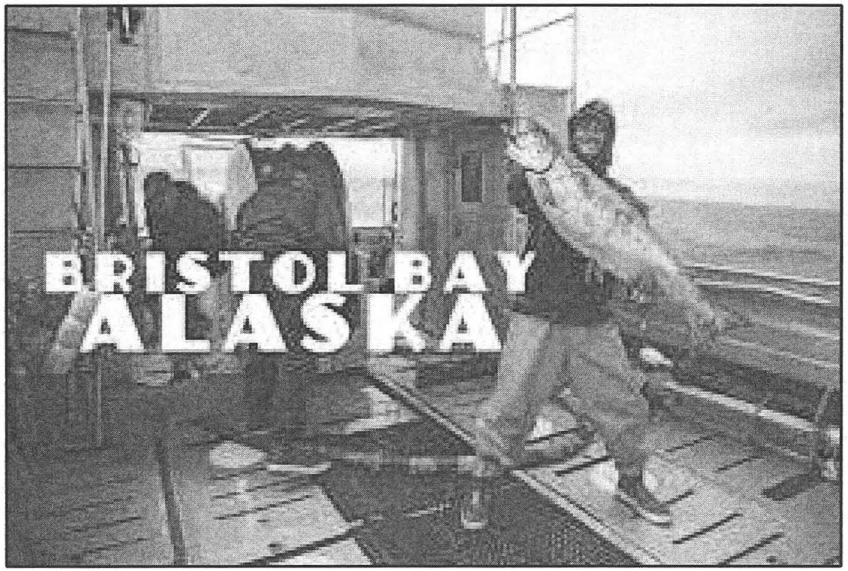
Why GM Salmon?

- Never about sustainability, always about profit
- From the AquaBounty website:
  - **The AquaBounty Founding Idea — Modern Genetics + Land-Based Aquaculture**
    - In 1993, AquaBounty's CEO had the idea of pairing the two revolutionary technologies. The innovative **faster growing** AquAdvantage Salmon, which **would shorten production cycles by half and drastically reduce feed costs**, could finally make land-based fish farming **economically viable.**






Alaska's
Wild
Salmon

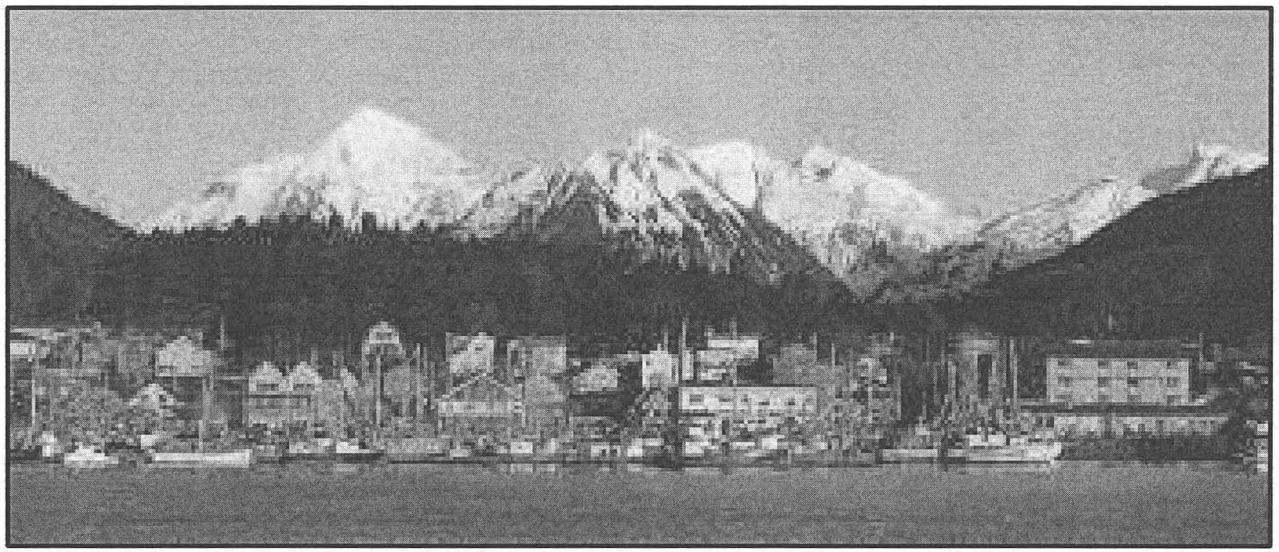


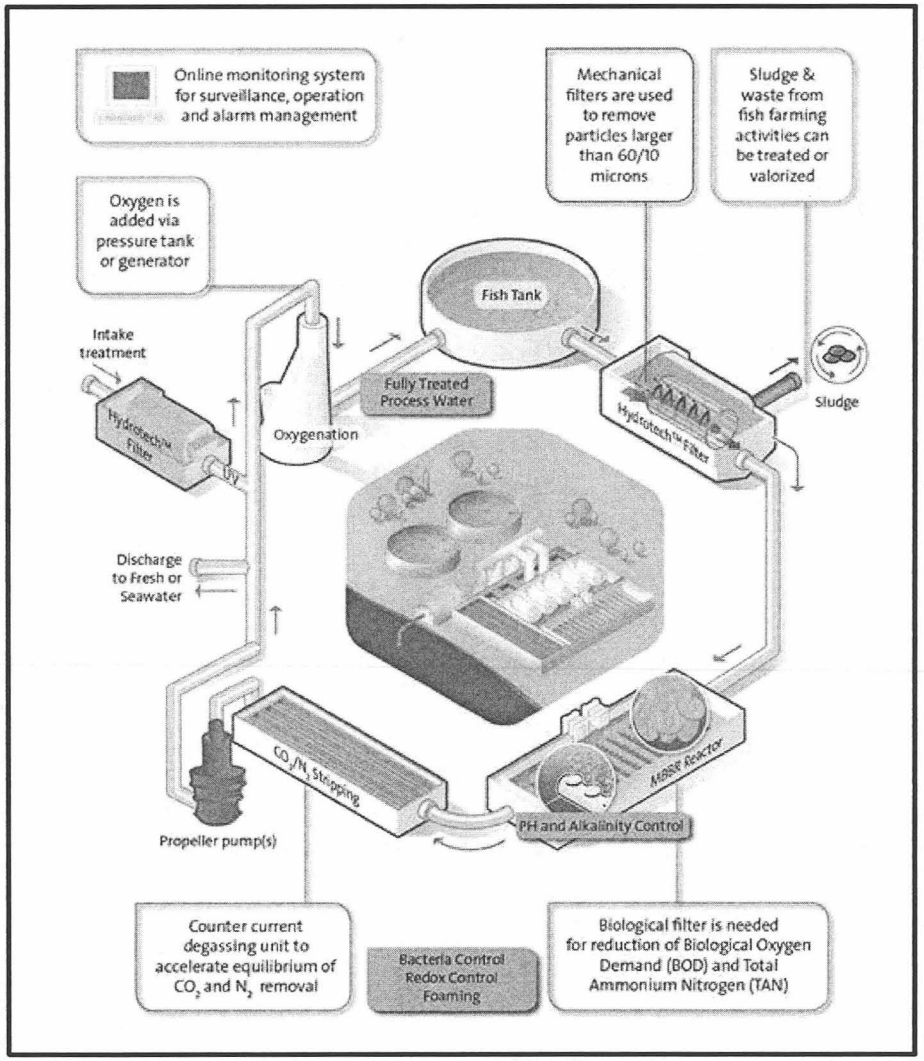
Why Alaska Pollock is sustainably harvested

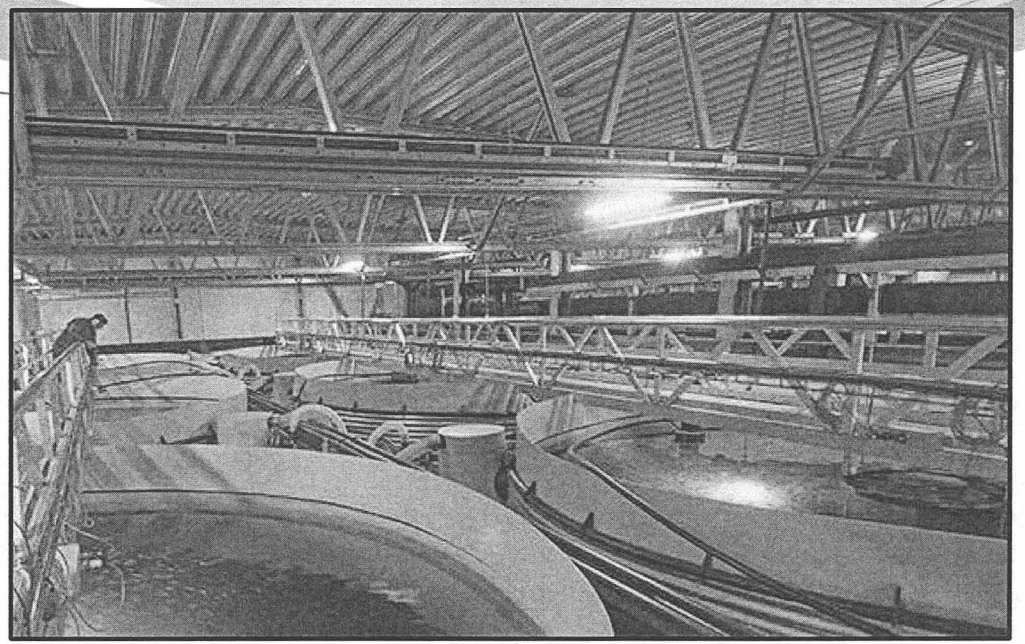
1. Only **American** owned fishing vessels can fish in Alaskan waters
2. **Bering Sea** ecosystem is exhaustively studied and researched
3. **18 year track record** of managing sustainable catch levels
4. **Quota system** incentivizes Fishers to fish sustainably
5. **Onboard Observer Program** ensures fishery is closely monitored

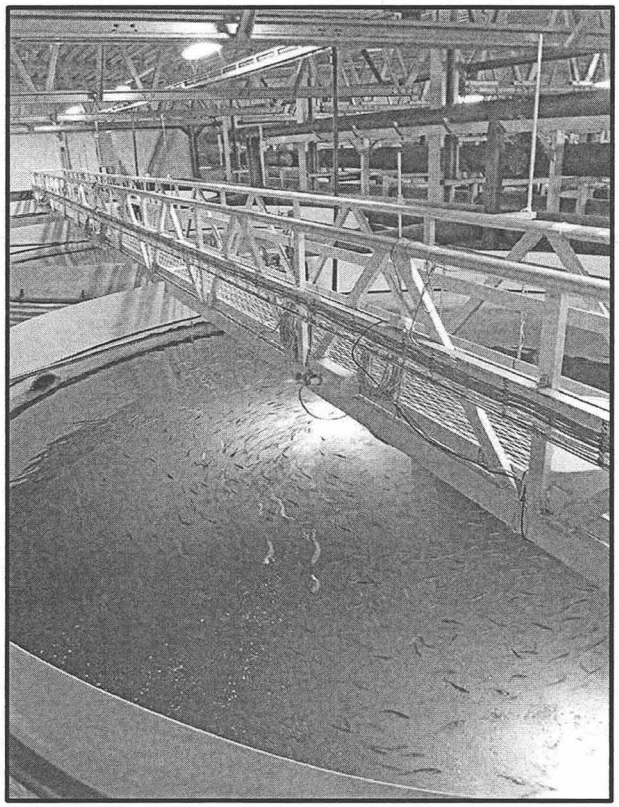
"The modern pollock industry, while by no means perfect, is one of the best managed in the world"

"Pollock is considered one of the world's best-managed populations...It is sometimes referred to as a poster child of marine fisheries management"




Online monitoring system for surveillance, operation and alarm management
Mechanical filters are used to remove particles larger than 60/10 microns
Sludge & waste from fish farming activities can be treated or valorized
Oxygen is added via pressure tank or generator
Fish Tank
Intake treatment
Hydrotech™ Filter
Fully Treated Process Water
Oxygenation
Hydrotech™ Filter
Sludge
Discharge to Fresh or Seawater
MBBR Reactor
CO_2/N_2 Stripping
PH and Alkalinity Control
Propeller pump(s)
Counter current degassing unit to accelerate equilibrium of CO_2 and N_2 removal
Bacteria Control
Redox Control
Foaming
Biological filter is needed for reduction of Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Total Ammonium Nitrogen (TAN)



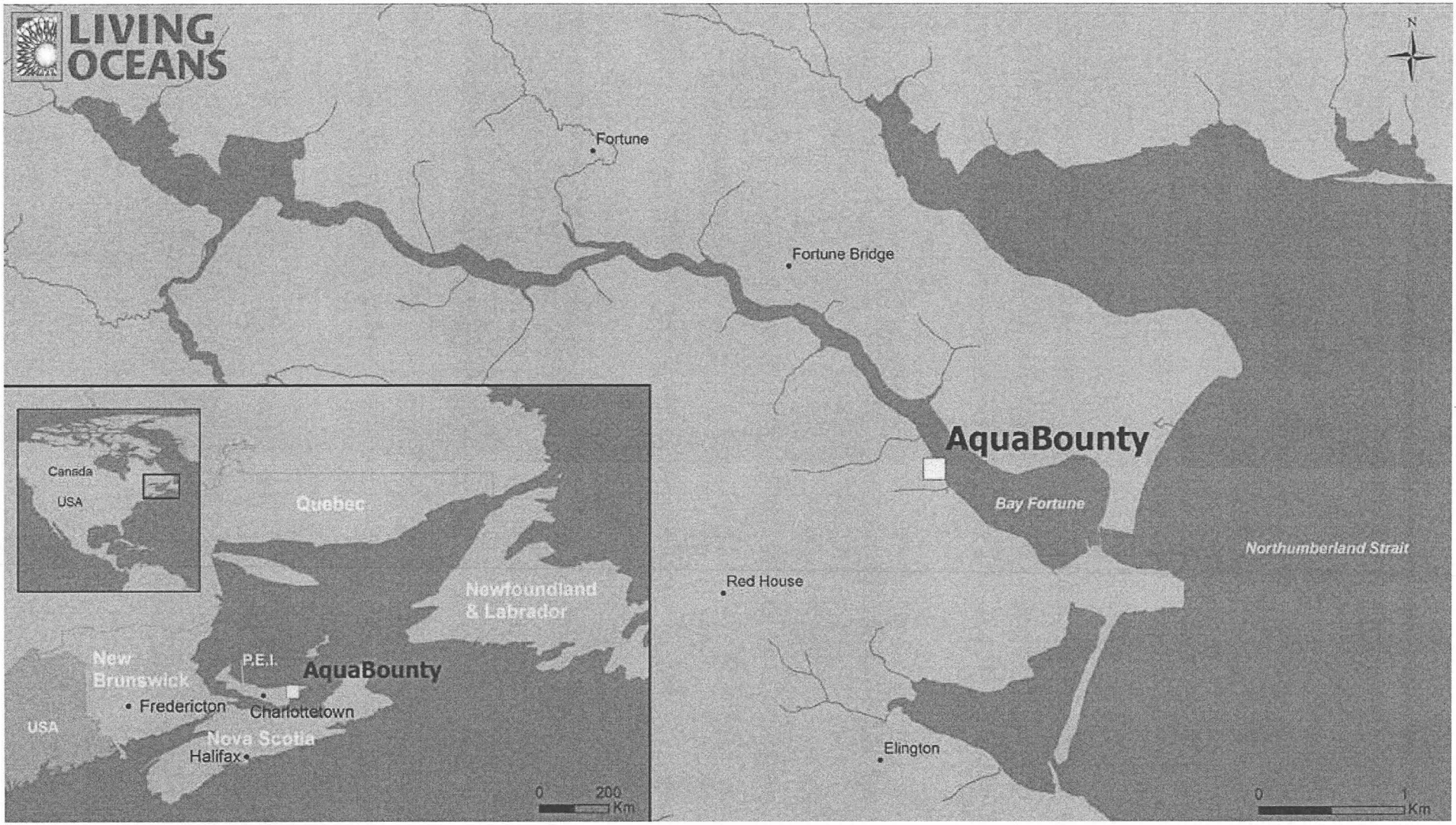


Concerns about GM salmon

- 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


LIVING OCEANS
N
Fortune
Fortune Bridge
AquaBounty
Bay Fortune
Northumberland Strait
Red House
Elington
0 1 Km
Canada
USA
Quebec
Newfoundland & Labrador
New Brunswick
P.E.I.
AquaBounty
Fredericton
Charlottetown
Nova Scotia
Halifax
USA
0 200 Km

Representative Geran Tarr

Threat to Wild Salmon

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

royalsocietypublishing.org/content/280/1763/20131047

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Hybridization between genetically modified Atlantic salmon and wild brown trout reveals novel ecological interactions

Krista B. Oke, Peter A. H. Westley, Darek T. R. Moreau, Ian A. Fleming

Published 29 May 2013 DOI: 10.1098/rspb.2013.1047

Article | Figures & Data | Info & Metrics | eLetters | PDF

GM Salmon Can Breed With Trout and Harm Ecosystem, Warn Scientists

May 29th, 2013

Genetically modified salmon can breed with wild trout to produce a new fast growing fish that can harm natural species, scientists have warned.

The Telegraph

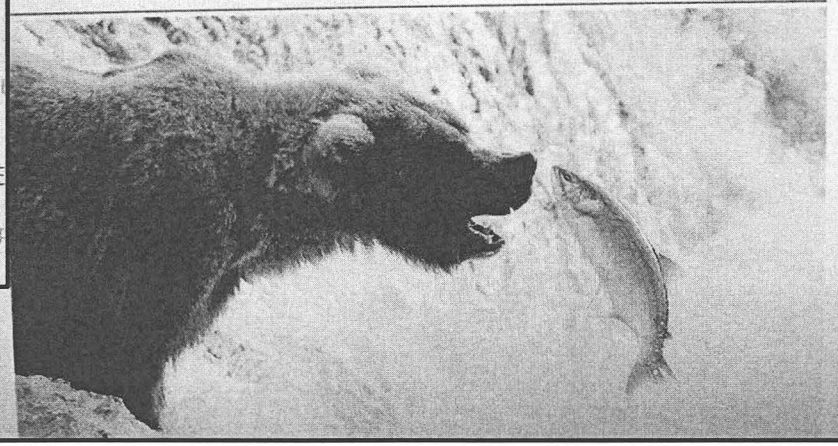
By Richard Gray, Science Correspondent

HOME » NEWS » SCIENCE » SCIENCE NEWS

GM salmon can breed with trout and harm ecosystem, warn scientists

Genetically modified salmon can breed with wild trout to produce a new fast growing fish that can harm natural species, scientists have warned.

15 | 0 | 0 | 15 | Email



FISHupdate For all the latest industry news, markets and jobs

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New report highlights GM salmon risks – Fishupdate.com

Posted on September 22, 2014 by systemwyvex • 0 Comments

Risks to Human Health

- People who eat the GM 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
- Largest private sector employer with over 70,000 jobs

Alaskans Are Not Alone in Opposing GM Salmon

- Dozen Alaskan fishing groups & retailers
- Congressional delegation
- 40 members of Congress
- More than 1.5 million comments from around the country opposing approval of GM salmon
- 65 retailers won't sell GM salmon

International Opposition


election 2016 US world opinion sports soccer tech arts lifestyle fashion business travel e

home › environment climate change wildlife energy pollution

GM

Canada sued over approval of genetically modified salmon scheme

US firm's plan to produce GM salmon eggs in Canada and ship them to Panama threatens contamination of wild fish in a 'huge live experiment', lawsuit argues

Oliver Milman

@olliemilman

Tuesday 17 November 2015 06.30 EST

This article is 2 months old

Shares 4985 Comments 117

Save for later

Most po

Representative Geran Tarr

US Lawsuit filed March 31,2016

- Sues US FDA claiming did not have authority to approve GMO salmon
- Says 1938 Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act does not allow for regulation of "animal drugs"
- Also highlights failure to consult with NOAA and other federal agencies

HJR012 Supporting Document – Letters in Support 3.24.17

INDEX

UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

Mailing Address: PO Box 20229, Juneau AK 99802-0229
Physical Address: 410 Calhoun Ave Ste 101, Juneau AK 99801
Phone: (907) 586-2820 **Fax:** (907) 463-2545
Email: ufa@ufafish.org **Website:** www.ufafish.org

February 27, 2017

Representative Louise Stutes, Chairman
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: Support for HJR 12, opposing FDA approval of genetically modified salmon and urging labeling.

Dear Chairman Stutes and Committee Members,

UFA is on record with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in opposition to approval of genetically modified salmon for production and consumption in the U.S., and we have strongly requested that FDA regulations require that any genetically modified salmon or other seafood products be clearly labeled as such.

Alaska leads the world in sustainable fishery management practices and we have gone to great effort and expense to differentiate our seafood products in the marketplace. We are very concerned that if genetically modified salmon is allowed to be sold in the U.S. at all, or not labeled clearly, Alaska fishermen and coastal communities will suffer job losses and economic hardship due to consumer confusion about the wholesomeness of salmon in general.

United Fishermen of Alaska represents 34 Alaska Commercial fishing organizations, and hundreds of individual fishermen and related businesses. We support HJR 12 and applaud the State Legislature for your dedication to Alaska's fisheries and our position in the global marketplace.

Sincerely,

Jerry McCune
President

Mark Vinsel
Executive Administrator

CC: Representative Geran Tarr

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS
Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers • Alaska Independent Tendermen's Association • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Scallop Association
Alaska Trollers Association • Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association • Armstrong Keta • At-sea Processors Association • Bristol Bay Fishermen's Association
Bristol Bay Reserve • Cape Barnabas, Inc. • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen • Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United
Douglas Island Pink and Chum • Freezer Longline Coalition • Golden King Crab Coalition • Groundfish Forum • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association
Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Purse Seine Vessel Owner Association
Seafood Producers Cooperative • Southeast Alaska Herring Conservation Alliance • Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance
Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
United Cook Inlet Drift Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters • Valdez Fisheries Development Association

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

9369 North Douglas Highway

Juneau, AK 99801

Phone: 907-586-6652 Email: seafa@gci.net

Fax: 907-523-1168 Website: http://www.seafa.org

February 27, 2017

Representative Louise Stutes, Chairman
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: SUPPORT for HJR 12 Opposing genetically engineered salmon & requiring labeling

Dear Chairman Stutes and Committee Members,

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFA) is in support of HJR 12 opposing genetically engineered salmon approved by the Federal Drug Administration and requiring labeling of the GE salmon. It is important that GE salmon is clearly marked to prevent confusion on the part of the consumer in the marketplace.

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance is a multi-gear, multi-species commercial fishing association representing our 315+ members involved in the salmon, crab, shrimp and longline fisheries of Southeast Alaska.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hansen
Executive Director

Support HJR12
PO Box 232 Petersburg, AK 99833

Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association
(907) 772-9323
email:pvoa@gci.net

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 costal communities in Southeast Alaska. PVOA has three major concerns with genetically modified salmon:

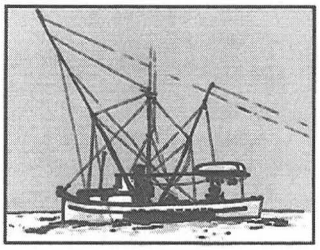
1. The long-term affects of consuming genetically modified salmon are not yet known.
2. Our fisheries would be endangered if transgenic fish escaped into the wild.
3. If genetically modified salmon is sold in the U.S. unlabeled, Alaska fishermen and coastal communities will suffer economically from miss-informed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

Megan O'Neil
Executive Director



Alaska Trollers Association
130 Seward #205
Juneau, AK 99801
(907)586-9400 phone
ata@gci.net

February 26, 2017

Representative Louise Stutes, Chair
House Fisheries
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol (Mail Stop 3100)
Juneau AK 99801-1182

RE: HJR 12 Labeling of Genetically Engineered Foods

Dear Representative Stutes and Committee Members:

The Alaska Trollers Association (ATA) supports HJR 12, which encourages Congress to enact legislation requiring the clear labeling of genetically engineered (GE) food products. We believe that HJR 12 reflects the wishes and concerns of the vast majority of not only Alaskans, but Americans, who wish to make informed choices about the foods they eat.

ATA represents the interests of commercial hook and line salmon fishermen who operate in state and federal waters; our members are committed to delivering wholesome, high quality seafood to market. Our members believe that consumers deserve clear information and a choice when it comes to the foods they eat.

To date, more than 64 other countries have some form of mandatory labeling requirement for GE foodstuffs.[1] U.S. policymakers have taken a different approach and mostly remain silent on the matter. However, just last year Congress passed legislation that not only denied mandatory labeling of GE products, it also infringed on the rights of the states, including Alaska, to require labeling of products being sold within state borders. That law was dubbed the Denying American's Right to Know Act (DARK Act).

Numerous public opinion surveys have been conducted in the U.S. and reveal that up to 95% of respondents – of any voter persuasion - favor the labeling of GE seafood; about half consistently say they would not choose to eat GE seafood if given a choice. But how can they tell which is which if it's not labeled? In the case of salmon, we suspect some might simply choose to avoid it.

Genetically engineered foods have been around for about 20 years, with apples being a recent addition. By 2012, FDA estimated that 93% of the soybeans and 88% of the corn planted in the US was modified. Very few of those products are labeled. In 1992, FDA established a policy that would allow approved GE foods to be sold without labeling, because those foods are not viewed as "materially" different from non-GE varieties. FDA considers "material" differences as those that can be recognized by the human senses, like taste and smell. So, the use of genetic engineering meets FDA's limited threshold for "materiality" the same, simply because the genetic and molecular changes can't be seen. Since 2009,

[1] GE Food Labeling Laws

FDA has endorsed this same labeling policy for GE animals. Currently in the GE pipeline for approval is several species of plants and fish, mosquitos, pigs, goats, cattle, and more.

The Alaska Legislature has responded to the call for consumer information through labeling since 2005, with the passage of several bills specific to farmed and GE salmon. A sponsor of the first bi-partisan bill (SB 25[2]), Representative Gary Stevens (R-Kodiak) noted that labeling, *"...helps highlight Alaska seafood as distinct from genetically modified seafood, doing away with any vagueness that may exist to the consumer when purchasing seafood..."* His co-sponsor Senator Kim Elton (D-Juneau) said he was, *"... encouraged by the bipartisan support this bill received. It is a sign that, when it comes to seafood, Alaskans stand up for informed consumers and friends and neighbors working in the wild fish industry."*

Fishermen are particularly alarmed by the cavalier approach the nation has taken on the issue of genetically engineered foodstuffs. Once you allow a food to be modified, it becomes different and the level of risk changes, period. FDA's own scientists made that point during the 1990s debate on the agency's policy on GE plants. And while the scientific community is not yet done analyzing the risks of genetically engineered foods, it is well known that there are professional disagreements regarding its safety. At minimum, questions regarding toxicity and allergens do not appear to have been thoroughly vetted and resolved. This is particularly true for GE salmon.

FDA chose to analyze this first ever GE animal as a drug - not a food - which in turn shrouded the approval process in secrecy in order to protect the patents of the developer, AquaBounty. That meant the public was never allowed to engage in a full and transparent review process prior to approval of GE salmon. Despite overwhelming public requests to do so, the FDA ultimately decided that it would not require labeling of GE salmon. However, the agency says that it will allow the commercial salmon industry to voluntarily label its products as not containing GE material. This places the burden of public disclosure squarely on the existing seafood industry, similar to what the non-GE farm and ranch sector across the nation have been dealing with for years.

While the GE salmon and other foods may ultimately prove safe and wholesome, there is no doubt that they are unlike the foods that most of us grew up on. These are processed food at the most basic level and should be labeled accordingly, particularly when no independent science exists to prove that these products are safe. Such a label is not misleading, nor is it in any way false, it is simply telling the consumer the truth about a type of food that until just a couple decades ago was inconceivable.

Labeling of GE foods boils down to one of the most fundamental of human needs and rights –access to wholesome foods and information about how they are produced. The buying public must be allowed to make an informed choice and labeling will afford them that option. It is our hope that Alaska will encourage Congress to help make meaningful labeling programs available for consumers, particularly if the federal agencies continue to turn a deaf ear to the public.

Thank you for considering ATA's point of view on this matter.

Best regards,

Dale Kelley

Dale Kelley
Executive Director

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[2] SB 25

UNITED SOUTHEAST ALASKA
GILLNETTERS

Box 2196, Petersburg AK 99833 * (253) 237-3099 * usag.alaska@gmail.com * akgillnet.org

February 26, 2017

Representative Tarr
Capitol Bldg., Juneau, AK, 99801
rep.geran.tarr@akleg.gov

Dear Representative Tarr and interested others:

RE: SUPPORT for House Joint Resolution 12

United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters SUPPORTS House Joint Resolution 12, "*Opposing the United States Food and Drug Administration's approval of AquaBounty AquAdvantage genetically engineered salmon; and urging the United States Congress to enact legislation that requires prominently labeling genetically engineered products with the words "Genetically Modified" on the product's packaging.*"

Like millions of Americans, we strongly oppose FDA's approval and are concerned that these genetically engineered salmon could lead to a host of horrifying realities such as engineered salmon escaping and intermixing with and disrupting wild stocks, ecosystem degradation, resource competition, and confusing buyers of salmon and seafood

FDA believes these fish are safe for human consumption regardless of the lack of studies done to understand potential long-term effects from ingesting such engineered food. If these salmon enter the marketplace, they must be clearly labeled. Regardless of the product form, (whole fresh, frozen fillets, canned, smoked) prominent labeling of every engineered product, such as this Resolution proposes, is critical. At least then Alaska's superior salmon products will be differentiated so consumers can make an informed purchasing decision.

Salmon gillnetters of southeast Alaska feed millions of people worldwide high-quality, wild salmon that is nutritious, untainted, and sustainably-managed. Alaska needs to pass this Resolution to protect our seafood markets and ensure the world our salmon brands are trustworthy.

Thank you,

Cynthia Wallesz
Executive Director

Cc Senator Lisa Murkowski

House Fisheries Committee
Representative Stutes, Chair
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support HJR 12 Opposing Genetically Engineered Salmon

Dear Committee Members,

Southeast Alaska Seiners Association (SEAS) supports HJR 12 that opposes GMO salmon and requires prominently labeling genetically engineered products, "Genetically Modified". We support the efforts HJR 12 makes to address the numerous threats that GMO salmon present to Alaska fishermen, the economy of the State of Alaska, and the general public.

SEAS adamantly opposed the United States Food and Drug Administration's approval of genetically engineered salmon. The State of Alaska and an exhaustive list of organizations with diverse fishing interests have spent decades and countless millions of dollars to protect the sustainability, promote the health benefits of consuming wild salmon, and developing robust markets for our products. GMO products threaten the very core of this foundation. The general public at the **very least** has the right to be able to differentiate all GMO products from other propagated and especially "wild caught" products; and the protection of existing fisheries demands the labeling of such products.

SEAS has represented the interest and concerns of SE Alaska Purse Seine fishermen since 1968. Our membership, concerns, and priorities have varied over these 50 odd years, but one thing has always remained central; that we maintain a system that allows for a sustainable harvest of our fisheries resources that provides economic opportunity to our coastal communities and viability to future generations. We believe GMO products threaten that very principle.

Thank you for your consideration,

Susan Doherty

Executive Director

SalmonState
41193 Crested Crane
Homer, Alaska 99603

March 7, 2017

Representative Louise Stutes, Chair
House Fisheries
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol (Mail Stop 3100)
Juneau AK 99801-1182

RE: HJR 12 Labeling of Genetically Engineered Foods

Dear Representative Stutes and Committee Members:

SalmonState respectfully submits its support of HJR 12, which opposes the approval of AquaBounty AquAdvantage genetically engineered salmon and urges for legislation that would require clear labeling of genetically engineered (GE) food products, including AquaBounty's GE salmon. Not only does HJR 12 uphold the wishes and concerns of the vast majority of Alaskans, millions of Americans, and hundreds of businesses that care about the sustainability of wild salmon and trout, but it also helps ensure that Americans have the basic information needed to make informed decisions about what they buy and consume.

SalmonState is an Alaska-based initiative that works to protect salmon habitat, promote fish-friendly policies, and encourage innovation and education in the salmon marketplace. We work extensively with the entire salmon supply chain, and our staff have invested years of work in educating the domestic marketplace about why wild salmon matters. Through our work it has become clear that American consumers are thoroughly confused when it comes to purchasing salmon. Having unlabeled GE salmon enter the U.S. marketplace will undoubtedly increase consumer confusion and undermine the work that Alaska has done over the decades to promote and differentiate Alaska's wild salmon and seafood.

GE salmon labeling uncertainty has the potential to turn consumers away from salmon entirely, which is a risk that Alaska's salmon industry cannot afford to pay. Alaska's salmon fishermen and businesses are already facing tremendous market pressure from imported farmed salmon, which has driven down the market value of wild salmon over the last few decades. In addition to these increased market pressures, salmon fraud and mislabeling are already reported issues in the United States. The presence of unlabled GE salmon in the marketplace will only exacerbate this issue.

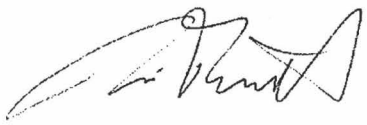
With GE salmon being the first genetically engineered animal protein approved for human consumption in the United States, it is imperative that we establish clear labeling standards for GE salmon from the outset and set a strong precedent for future GE seafood products. The American public has a right to know what they are buying and eating, especially given how little we know about the health implications and environmental risks of GE salmon. Not to mention, American consumers increasingly want to know where their food is from and how it was produced. In fact, numerous public opinion surveys in the U.S. show that up to 95% of respondents favor the labeling of GE seafood; about half consistently say they would not eat GE seafood if given a choice.

In addition to investing millions of dollars into educating buyers and consumers about wild Alaska salmon, Alaska has also committed millions of dollars and engaged in decades of research to maintain the health of its wild salmon stocks and implement sustainable wild salmon fisheries. It is crucial that our country's federal agencies support these actions by taking measures to ensure both the future sustainability of salmon stocks and the viability of Alaska's wild salmon fleets and fishing communities.

SalmonState applauds the Alaska Legislature for its previous leadership on this issue and for addressing the economic and ecologic threats that GE salmon pose to America's food system. We urge the Legislature to pass HJR 12 and help send a strong message to our nation's leaders that Alaskans will continue to stand up for informed consumers and a transparent seafood supply chain.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Tim Bristol
Director, SalmonState
timsalmonstate@gmail.com

To; State of Alaska Legislators 12 Mar 2017

Subject: GE Fish and Labeling food.

Jan Trojan, [redacted] Craig AK 99921

Dear House Resources Committee,

I am a 10 year Alaskan resident. Prior to moving to Alaska, I was your typical "organic food" is a racket... Little did I know. I had trusted food companies for ensuring the best quality food for the price. There are numerous books about our over processed food system.

FDA and USDA for years has accepted the research from the companies processing the food. This is not empirical science. The companies "pick and choose" what information was supplied. Mar 2015 IARC (International Agency on the Research on Cancer);

"What were the results of the IARC evaluations? The herbicide glyphosate and the insecticides malathion and diazinon were classified as probably carcinogenic to humans (Group 2A). The insecticide s s tetrachlorvinphos and parathion were classified as possibly carcinogenic to humans(Group 2B)."

Before folks say what does that have to do with fish and labeling? The GE fish labels should read PESTICIDE RESIDUAL. You and I know they will not do that! By the way labels should reflect what is in the product you are selling otherwise "Soylent Green"comes to mind.

Please step forth and demand labels on food. We are rural, not all folks bring their cell phones in to read the label, in the grocery store?

Let's reflect;

"U.S. regulatory agencies FDA and USDA do NOT regulate use or dangers of Glyphosate
Prior to 1970, Glyphosate was synthesized in a laboratory by a Swiss chemist that patented the chemical chelator "agent" that was known then to bind and remove the minerals calcium, magnesium, copper, zinc and manganese. Glyphosate also kills plants and bacteria by interfering with the synthesis of the amino acids tyrosine, tryptophan and phenylalanine by inhibiting certain enzymes. Glyphosate residues are NOT always immobile and do have the potential to contaminate surface waters through soil erosion as it adsorbs (remains as thin film on surface) to soil particles suspended in runoff. Glyphosate is NOT tested by the FDA's Pesticide Residue Monitoring Program nor the USDA's Pesticide Data Program, and field tests show that carrots, lettuce and barley contain residues up to ONE YEAR after the soil is treated with just three pounds of Glyphosate per acre. **Contamination of rain, groundwater and surface water** is attributed to urban and agricultural use. People spray Roundup on sidewalks, to clear railroad tracks, and to try to eradicate weeds from their yards. It's also used in aerial spraying. Laboratory toxicology studies reveal that other ingredients in combination with Glyphosate may have greater toxicity than Glyphosate and might also propel the toxicity and carcinogenic (cancer-causing) actions of Glyphosate itself." (http://www.truthwiki.org/glyphosate/)

GE fish are not okay. We are having a problem with documentation from companies trying to sell us their product. GE fish is just like the foods we eat(over processed)not labeled correctly and have pesticide residual they consider tolerable. We have an opportunity to claim FRESH FISH, not farmed.

I must comment about pesticides. It is all related, we are dealing with chemical companies that want to sell their product. Please ask yourself why does Cannabis(another market missed) require it to be organic? Why not the "stuff" we feed daily to our children? As food advocate, I am a cheap Norwegian(100% American) When I got wise to cancer.(myself 2013) I found all the research about nutrition. It is astonishing if you take a look. I am deeply disappointed at Rep. Don Young. He signed off on not labeling foods. It's not too late for him to state his position-not "I made a mistake". I have had young parents say they cannot afford to buy organic for their children. I feel for them, but my cat and plants get filtered water. It's important to care about what you drink and eat.

On our Island every community stated they do not want pesticides. We do not want GE salmon!. We want to label our food.

If you succumb to chemical companies all bets are off.

As a medic 24 years Air Force and civilian I have learned a lot. One being, the tumor registry board. Please heed this; Alaska is one of the highest cancer mortalities. Slightly above the average. I called about myself to see if I was on the list. Alaska is a bit different as Native and White are documented differently. I was not on the registry/ I called the tumor folks and they explained that if the tumor was taken out in another state it counted there. I also spoke to the native cancer board. They say their tumor board is more detailed. I added myself to the Caucasian list. Each person counts.

I choose to stay at the position I held: enlisted medical, that does not mean I did not learn, as I became a patient. As a cancer patient, I learned a lot can be environmental. A lot can be avoided.

Thank you for your attention on this matter-it's our economy and a way on life.

Jan Trojan

USAFR Medic

[redacted] Craig, AK 99921

On route for this but my plane lands at 12:15

HJR 12 Letter of Support

From: renn nelson
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 4:26 PM
To: LIO Ketchikan <LIO.Ketchikan@akleg.gov>
Subject: Hjb12

I am opposed to genetically re engineering salmon or fish as if they get diseases they might pass them onto the natural stocks
The natural stocks have been reliable for all if our lives and the hatchery programs have had excellent success in the past and that is the only enhancement programs I presently trust
Sincerely
Renn Nelson
Craig ak

-----Original Message-----
From:
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 4:39 PM
To: House Resources <lhsres@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>
Subject: CS for House Joint Resolution No. 12 (Fish)

I strongly oppose the approval of AquaBounty AquAdvantage genetically engineered salmon. They are the first genetically modified organism to attempt to be approved.

Many concerns exist. The hormone used to cause the fish to grow faster and larger than normal Chinook has unknown consequences on humans. Perhaps they will act as endocrine disrupters, causing negative results in people. The fish to be grown are supposedly in escape proof pens, but it would not take too many escapees to enter salmon streams and outcompete normal sized Chinook fish and contaminate precious wild runs. The food given to young GM fish (also known colloquially as FrankenFish) could contaminate water sources as would the vast amount of accumulating feces of all those fish in great concentration.

As soon as the word came out a year or so ago about the eventual availability of GM fish, numerous big food stores came out opposed to carrying them, in part because of public pressure, in part because of the potential dangers to humans consuming them. These experiments on humans and the environment must not be allowed. Please vote NO on approving these fish.

Anne Wieland
Homer

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2018 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HJR 12
Fiscal Note Number:
() Publish Date:

Identifier: HJR12-LEG-SESS-02-23-17
Title: OPPOSING GEN. ENGINEERED SALMON
Sponsor: TARR
Requester: HOUSE SP COMM ON FISHERIES

Department:
Appropriation:
Allocation:
OMB Component Number: 0

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2019 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2019 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	**FY 2019**	**FY 2019**	**FY 2020**	**FY 2021**	**FY 2022**	**FY 2023**	**FY 2024**
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2018) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2019) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency?
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

INITIAL VERSION. ONE PAGE. ZERO NOTE.

Prepared By: Senator Giessel
Senate Resources Committee
Phone: (907)465-4843
Date: 01/26/2018

Dear Senator Giessel and members of the Senate Resource Committee,

As a 56 year Alaskan who loves salmon, I strongly oppose the permitting of Genetically Engineered Salmon. First of all, I oppose humans playing God with animals. We read often of farmed salmon escaping their totally secure fenced areas, threatening our wild stocks, most recently a large escape in British Columbia. Should these grossly enlarged salmon escape their pens they could further threaten the precious wild stock that we still have in Alaska. Wild salmon face threats everywhere, perhaps in Bristol Bay or Chuitna if either or both projects including Pebble mine are permitted. There are unknown health risks with genetically modified engineered salmon, as well as pollution to the environment where they are produced. I strongly support our commercial salmon fishery, and love to fish for them myself. Please, no GE Salmon. No farmed salmon in Alaska waters! Let's support our own natural fish and the people who fish for them, Vote NO on GE Salmon!

Anne Wieland
Homer, AK