

**STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE**

2013

Source
CSHJR 5(FSH)

**Legislative
Resolve No.**
6



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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