

October 7, 2010

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Senate
709 Hart
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Begich
U.S. Senate
144 Russell
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Don Young
U.S. House of Representatives
2111 Rayburn
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Murkowski, Senator Begich and Representative Young:

We want to thank you for your opposition to plans by the FDA to consider approval of genetically-engineered salmon for consumption in the U.S. We urge you to remain vigilant on this issue.

Our communities have long battled economic threats to our salmon fisheries posed by farmed fish, much of it grown overseas and dumped on our market through unfair trade practices. Those threats resulted in major declines in Alaska salmon prices over a 20 year period that caused significant economic harm to our fishery-dependent communities. We have only recently begun to see prices recover, thanks in part to the marketing and labeling of wild salmon and education by consumers of the health benefits of eating wild fish.

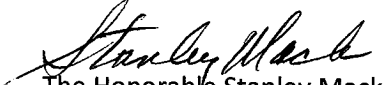
We strongly believe that if this new fish species is approved for sale by the FDA it should be labeled as "Genetically Altered Salmon." Let consumers decide, as they have done with wild salmon, based on easy to read information on what kind of fish they want to eat. Our view is – who would want to eat a fish that has been spliced with the gene of another salmon and an eel?

There are other factors to consider. AquaBounty is planning to develop genetically altered eggs on Prince Edward Island then ship the eggs for rearing and processing at a "highland facility" in Panama. We understand that the company is also seeking regulatory approval for sale in Canada. We can easily foresee a scenario where AquaBounty decides to shift gears and rear the salmon to maturity in British Columbia aquaculture pens. There have already been numerous escapes of Atlantic salmon from these pens.

The company maintains that the genetically altered salmon will be sterile. Grass and big head carp introduced for weed control in Southeastern U.S. catfish farms were also claimed to be sterile. They escaped into the Mississippi River system as a result of flooding, reproduced on a mass scale, and are currently causing ecological and economic havoc in the millions of dollars to that region of the country. We can't afford to risk a similar scenario with Alaska fisheries.

Thank you for hearing our views. We stand ready to help in any way possible to ensure the genetically altered salmon remains a creature of the laboratory and not in our supermarkets.

Sincerely,


The Honorable Stanley Mack
Mayor