

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

June 12, 2013

Commissioner Margaret Hamburg
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Commissioner Hamburg,

I am writing today in response to alarming information found in a recent study from McGill University, published in Proceedings of the Royal Society B, that reports findings that genetically modified salmon are capable of breeding with wild fish. The study revealed hybridization between genetically modified Atlantic salmon and wild brown trout. This is very troubling news. Not only does this finding contradict AquaBounty's statement that GM salmon cannot reproduce in the wild, but more alarmingly these hybrid fish grow faster than both genetically modified and wild salmon. These fish can out-compete their native counterparts and have the potential to decimate wild populations of fish.

While the comment period regarding AquaBounty's application to sell genetically modified salmon in the United States has closed, the information from this recent study is extraordinarily important in determining whether this application should be approved or not. The study demonstrates proof of interbreeding with another species and highlights the potential for permanent, irreversible negative impacts.

I implore you to consider these recent findings when making your final decision. I am requesting the research findings be included in the official record regarding the AquaBounty application. Too little research has been done regarding the potential ecological effects of allowing production of GM salmon. This research underscores the risk of moving too quickly and without enough information. This application should not be approved at this time and further studies should be conducted regarding the ecological impacts of GM salmon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Geran Tarr".

Representative Geran Tarr.