

**Date:** February 9, 2012

**To:** The Honorable Jules Bailey and Vic Gilliam, Co-Chairs

**House Committee on Energy, Environment and Water**

**Testimony by  
Ed Bowles, Fish Division Administrator  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Testimony on House Bill 4060-1**

HB 4060-1 proposes to define genetically engineered and recombinant DNA or RNA techniques and specifically prohibit import, transport, release or propagation of genetically engineered fish. The proposed bill with amendments also has exemptions, including triploid fish, hybrid fish, shellfish, live aquaria fish, and closed-system research fish. It also does not constrain the use of vaccines necessary for fish health management and prohibits propagation of Atlantic salmon that may come in contact with and spread infectious salmon anemia (ISA) to native anadromous fish.

The Department believes the release of genetically engineered fish into waters of the State could pose a serious threat to wild populations, particularly if these fish are capable of reproduction. The Department also believes it is appropriate to be very precautionary regarding the potential importation of infectious fish diseases, including ISA.

The exclusion of triploid and hybrid fish, fish used in closed system research and vaccines necessary for fish health should help avoid confusion regarding what is a genetically engineered fish and protect these valuable tools used by the Department for fish management.

The agency has no objection to the stipulation concerning the propagation of Atlantic salmon.

***CONTACTS***

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