



OREGON SALMON COMMISSION

February 23, 2016

The Oregon Salmon Commission would like to provide comments on the genetically modified (GM) salmon that the FDA has approved.

The Oregon Salmon Commission is an industry funded state commodity commission under the Oregon Department of Agriculture and represents the Oregon ocean commercial salmon fishermen.

We understand that the FDA has approved the sale of GM salmon. Prior to this the Oregon Salmon Commission wrote a letter to the FDA asking that if they did decide to proceed with GM salmon for sale in the U.S., that it be clearly labeled and identified as GM salmon. We think that the public should have the opportunity to make their own decision about whether they wish to make this purchase. We do not want to have any confusion between Oregon wild caught salmon and GM farmed salmon. Some chain grocery stores have already decided not to carry GM salmon. I even had an email from a consumer saying that if GM salmon come to the marketplace and are not identified as such, then they will quit eating ALL salmon. I know that this is an extreme case, but if others think along these lines, then the effects could be disastrous to our commercial fishermen and coastal communities.

Another major concern is escapement of either GM or Atlantic salmon into the natural river populations of salmon by the facilities that may be near our U.S. shores, i.e. Canada. This potential introduction of GM or Atlantic salmon could have disastrous affects or at least unknown consequences to those salmon already inhabiting the river systems. These potential interactions are unacceptable to the fisheries that depend on healthy systems of known populations of salmon.

The Oregon Salmon Commission understands that the science for farming Atlantic salmon is variable, but the possibility of escapement is not an acceptable risk to our salmon populations and not a risk that we are willing to take.

We ask that GM salmon be clearly labeled, so that the public can make their salmon purchases with confidence about where their fish was caught or raised.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Fitzpatrick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy Fitzpatrick, Executive Director
Oregon Salmon Commission