

# WISPIRG

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THE WISCONSIN STUDENT PUBLIC  
INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP 37

FDA Commissioner  
5630 Fishers Lane  
Room 1061 (HFA-305)  
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket No. # 01P-0230

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing you to express my serious concerns about the FDA's role in approving the commercial use of transgenic fish. Given the potential human health and environmental uncertainties posed by genetically engineered fish, I urge you to reject any application seeking the use and marketing of transgenic fish. I strongly urge you to keep the GE Fish off all of the commercial markets and prohibit any importation of such GE fish.

I am quite concerned about the potential impacts of these fish upon my Health. Genetically engineered fish (GE fish) are new to the human food supply and present unknown risks to human health, including the potential impacts of significantly elevated growth hormone levels in these fish. 37 people died, 1500 were partially paralyzed, and 5000 more were temporarily disabled by a syndrome that was finally linked to tryptophan made by genetically engineered bacteria.

The FDA's failure to require toxicological testing for these fish suggests that the agency's review process is favoring the biotech industry and not acting to ensure my and other millions upon millions of consumers' safety.

Moreover, the commercialization of these genetically engineered fish poses the potential for irreversible damage to the environment. Fish farms throughout history have repeatedly demonstrated that fish kept in ocean and freshwater pens escape from their confinements.

There are compelling scientific studies documenting the potential for escaped genetically engineered fish to become invasive species that could cause permanent ecological damage to wild fish stocks as well as the wider marine environment. These new studies have shown that

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transgenic fish are more aggressive, eat more food, and will attract more mates than wild fish. The studies also show that although transgenic fish will attract more mates, their offspring will be less fit and less likely to survive. As a result, scientists predict that transgenic fish may cause some species to become EXTINCT within only a few generations. When one species becomes extinct, other species will likely be affected. Far more animals will be abused for corporate profits and more species will become extinct.


For example, pollen from transgenic plants can cross-pollinate with genetically natural crops and wild relatives. All crops, organic and non-organic, are vulnerable to contamination from cross-pollination. It threatens Our Entire Food Supply.

There are already 114 species of fish, including the Atlantic salmon that are listed under the Endangered Species Act. The FDA should NOT promote the introduction of another threat to our endangered fisheries.

For these reasons, I strongly urge FDA to fully review the significant human health and environmental risks posed by genetically engineered fish. Therefore, the approval of any GE salmon and other GE fish at this time is totally unacceptable! I fully support a permanent moratorium on the commercialization of any kind of transgenic fish.

Again, please keep the GE Fish off all of the commercial markets permanently. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Marie Thessin

Vice Chair of State Board

2030 N Oakland Avenue #203

Milwaukee, WI 53202

U.S. Constituent

P.S.: Important references:

<http://www.safe-food.org/-issue/dangers.html>

<http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/gefish/index.html#Articles>

<http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/gefish/index.html>



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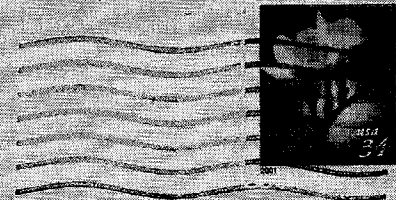
University of Wisconsin  
Milwaukee Chapter

The Wisconsin Student Public Interest Research Group

PO Box 413  
Union Box 34  
Milwaukee, WI 53211

PHONE & FAX: 414 229 4875  
PHONE: 414 229 2456  
EMAIL: wispirg@uwm.edu  
OFFICE: Union E377

**WISPIRG**  
**P.O. Box 413**  
**Union Box 34**  
**Milwaukee, WI 53201**



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Rockville, MD 20852

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