

Dr. Stephen F. Sundlof
Food and Drug Administration
Center for Veterinary Medicine
7519 Standish Place
Rockville, MD 20855

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FDA Docket #: 01P-0230

Dear Dr. Sundlof,

I am writing to express my concern about the possible commercialization of genetically engineered fish. I urge the FDA not to approve the current application by A/F Protein to sell genetically engineered salmon.

Genetically engineered fish may potentially become an invasive species that could cause irreversible ecological damage to wild fish stocks and to the wider marine environment.

Sterility of genetically engineered fish is inherently uncertain given the possibility for human error and natural variation. Even if certain sterility were achievable, sterile genetically fish would still compete with wild fish for food and habitat and will affect the overall marine ecology.

The history of fish farming clearly demonstrates that once pens are placed in the ocean, captive fish will escape. Because fish do not recognize national boundaries, any release of genetically engineered fish will be of international concern. This issue is of global relevance.

I urge the FDA not to approve the current application by A/F Protein for genetically engineered salmon because GE fish pose an unnecessary and unacceptable risk to the marine environment and potentially to human health.

Sincerely,

James D. Hauls 6/18/2001

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