

Introduced by: Council Member Whitney
Date: February 12, 2013
Action: Passed
Vote: 5-0

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

Resolution # 13-04

A RESOLUTION BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL OPPOSING THE UNITED STATES FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION'S PRELIMINARY FINDING RELATING TO GENETICALLY ENGINEERED SALMON; OPPOSING AQUABOUTY'S PETITION TO PRODUCE GENETICALLY ENGINEERED SALMON; AND PROPOSING, IF AQUABOUTY'S PETITION IS APPROVED, THAT ITS PRODUCT BE LABELED AS "GENETICALLY MODIFIED"

WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released a Draft Environmental Assessment and Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact Concerning a Genetically Engineered Atlantic Salmon on May 4, 2012;

WHEREAS, this draft assessment reviewed the submitted New Animal Drug Application for a genetically engineered (GE) Atlantic salmon species which was sponsored by AquaBounty Technologies;

WHEREAS, AquaAdvantage salmon, the fish generated from this study, has a growth hormone that allows the fish to grow at a faster rate than that of naturally produced salmon;

WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration is accepting comments until February 25, 2013 on the proposal to allow, for the first time, a genetically modified meat or fish product to be sold for human consumption;

WHEREAS, the Draft Environmental Assessment and Preliminary Finding state that the company is mitigating potentially adverse environmental impacts by producing an all-female fish with approximately 5% capable of reproducing, in addition the facility is producing and harvesting the fish inland without using net pens or cages;

WHEREAS, the possibility exists that the AquaAdvantage salmon could escape into the wild and mate with wild salmon stock;

Introduced by: Council Member Whitney
Date: February 12, 2013
Action: Passed
Vote: 5-0

WHEREAS, if crossbreeding occurred in the oceans and rivers, there would be no way to control the multiplying of this GE fish and therefore could lead the wild fish population to become less and less prevalent;

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska submitted public comments opposing genetically engineered salmon for various reasons-the financial impact to the State's economic reliance on Wild Alaska Salmon sales was a strong one;

WHEREAS, understanding it is not in the purview of the FDA to consider the economic impacts of such proposal however, the impact the many fisheries across the nation will face must be considered;

WHEREAS, Alaska's fishing industry provides naturally harvested and processed fish to the world,

WHEREAS, the production of GE fish and the distribution of this "less expensive" option to consumers will negatively impact the state's fishing industry and therefore the state's economy;

WHEREAS, in 2005, Alaska's 24th Legislature passed SB25 relating to labeling and identification of genetically modified fish and fish products;

WHEREAS, if the FDA approves the application from AquaBounty Technologies, it is imperative that they require the manufacturer of this and other genetically altered meat and fish products to conspicuously label each package for sale within the United States as "genetically modified;"

WHEREAS, the labeling requirement insures that consumers are informed about the types of salmon for sale;

WHEREAS, introducing GE animals and fish into the consumer market has the potential to decrease the need for naturally produced products;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council opposes the United States Food and Drug Administration's preliminary finding relating to genetically engineered salmon; opposes AquaBounty Technology's petition to produce genetically engineered salmon; and proposes, if AquaBounty Technology's petition is approved, that its products be labeled as "genetically modified."

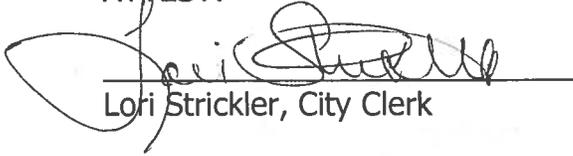
Introduced by: Council Member Whitney
Date: February 12, 2013
Action: Passed
Vote: 5-0

**ENACTED THIS 12 DAY OF FEBRUARY 2013 BY A VOTE OF 5 IN FAVOR AND 0
OPPOSED.**



Joseph Klejka, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lori Strickler, City Clerk