

## Sample Letter to the Editor of Your Local Paper

Dear Editor,

I am very concerned about the new potential threat of genetically engineered (GE) fish. One corporation, Aqua Bounty Farms, is seeking approval from the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) for commercial approval of the first genetically engineered animal for human consumption – engineered salmon. I fear that approval of these fish could pose threats to human and environmental health.

Scientific studies have shown that genetically engineered fish escaping into the wild, which is inevitable given the history of fish farming, could cause wild fish stocks to go extinct. With over 100 species of fish listed under the Endangered Species Act, can the fish really cope with one more harassment?

Also, genetic engineering of any organism remains experimental. We do not currently know all of the potential human health threats from eating GE foods.

Furthermore, I do not trust the FDA to make a sound decision on GE fish. The FDA already has a bad record when it comes to their failure to control contamination in the crop world, as we have seen with the StarLink corn scandal, where our food supply was contaminated with illegal corn, and cost farmers over 1 billion in lost revenue, and a recall of over 300 brand name food products.

Allowing GE fish into our waters and onto our plates without knowing the full ramifications to human health and the environment is irresponsible. Until human health and environmental safety are adequately addressed, I am opposed to genetically engineered fish.

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### **Quick tips for writing a letter to the editor:**

1. Explain why you care about this issue and why supporting wild salmon is good for our region
2. Keep it short: most papers request under 250 words.
3. Include your name, address and phone numbers (they will need to contact you to verify you wrote the letter!)

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