

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA STRONGLY OPPOSING AN APPLICATION FROM AQUABOUNTY TECHNOLOGIES, INC. TO THE U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) TO MARKET GENETICALLY ENGINEERED ATLANTIC SALMON

WHEREAS, genetically engineered salmon would jeopardize the health of wild salmon stocks if released into the wild; and

WHEREAS, Alaska wild salmon are a critical sector of Sitka and Alaska's economy through commercial, sport/charter and subsistence fishing, and genetically engineered salmon could erode the strength of the wild seafood industry and harm this economy; and

WHEREAS, AquaBounty Technologies, Inc. has submitted an application to the FDA for approval of the "AquaAdvantage Salmon", a genetically engineered salmon, for human consumption and marketing in the United States; and

WHEREAS, neither Sitka nor the State of Alaska support approval of genetically engineered salmon for sale; the risks and impacts on Alaska's wild fisheries, an economic engine for our community and state, is far too dangerous to justify the potential benefits; and

WHEREAS, interbreeding, diseases, parasites, and other problems associated with farmed salmon have the potential to devastate natural populations including Alaska's wild stocks; and

WHEREAS, rigorous scientific research needs to be completed to ensure consumption of genetically engineered salmon is safe for a large sector of the population, including children and expectant mothers, and allowing a company to sell a genetically engineered product that has not completed this testing could undermine consumer confidence and cause avoidance of all salmon products, which could cripple Alaska's salmon industry; and

WHEREAS, should the FDA approve AquaBounty's application to market its genetically engineered salmon it is of critical importance that their product be mandated to be clearly labeled "Genetically Modified" in an easy to read font size, prominently displayed in a contrasting color.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska by this resolution opposes approval of genetically engineered salmon for sale in the United States and stands in strong opposition.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska on this 12th day of February 2013.



Mim McConnell, Mayor

ATTEST:


Colleen Ingman, MMC
Municipal Clerk