GE Fish

Author: Lucy Sharratt<info@cban.ca> **December16,2011:ISAvirusconfirmedinAquaBounty?sgenetically-engineeredsalmon:**A2009memofromFisheriesandOceansCanada(DFO)enteredintoevidence atCanada?sfederalCohenInquiryintothecollapseofFraserRiversockeyeThursdayrevealsthatsalmon attheAquaBountyfacilityinPriceEdwardIslandhavetestedpositivefortheInfectiousSalmonAnaemia(ISA)virus.<ahref="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVh4TRey0OE"target="_self">ClickheretowatchCatherineStewartofLivingOceansSocietytalkaboutwhatthismeans. **October11,2011-PressRelease**:<ahref="/Press/Press-Releases/U.S.-Rubber-Stamp-of-GM-Fish-Imminent"target="_self">U.S.Rubber-StampofGMFishImminent?U.S.approvalwouldtriggercorporateplanstoproducegeneticallymodifiedsalmoneggsinCanada,butEnvironmentCanadaremainssilent CanadaandtheUScouldsoonapproveageneticallymodified(GMorgeneticallyengineered,GE)Atlanticsalmon-thefirst-everGMfoodanimalintheworld.ThesmallU.S.companyAquaBountyhasaskedtheU.S.FoodandDrugAdministration(FDA)toapprovetheirplantoproduceGMsalmoneggsonPEI,togrow-outinPanamaandselltoU.S.consumers.Thecompanyhasplanstoexpandproductionacrosstheworldthoughtheyhavenotspecifiedtheseplanstothe U.S.FDA. <aname="eztoc528_1"id="eztoc528_1"><h2>TakeAction</h2>
<ahref="/Resources/Topics/GE-Fish/Write-the-Minister-of-the-Environment"target="_self">WritetotheMinisterofEnvironmentinstantlybyclickinghere:HaltanyenvironmentalassessmentofGEfish!Whywon'tEnvironmentCanadaeventellCanadiansifithasstartedanassessment?
<ahref="/Resources/Topics/Enviropig/Write-the-Minister-of-Health-Stop-Enviropig"target="_self">WritetotheMinisterofHealthtoday,tostoptheGMfishandtheGMpigcalled"Enviropig".HealthCanadaisalreadyconsideringarequesttoapprovetheGMpig(fromtheUniversityofGuelph)foreatinginCanadaandthecompanyAquaBountysaysitwillsoonaskforapprovalforitsGMsalmon.
<ahref="/Resources/Topics/GE-Fish/Sign-your-organization-s-objection-to-GE-fish"target="_self">Organizationscanstillsignontothestatementopposing GEsalmon!:NoGEResearch,Production,Consumptionin,andExportfrom,Canada.Weinviteenvironmental,conservation,health,consumer,andpublicinterestgroups,industryassociations,andaboriginalpeoples?organizationsinCanadatosignthefollowingstatementofoppositiontogeneticallyengineered(GE)fish.<ahref="/Resources/Topics/GE-Fish/Sign-your-organization-s-objection-to-GE-fish"target="_self">Signonhere.
<ahref="/Resources/Topics/GE-Fish/Stop-GM-Fish-Flyer"target="_self">Printanddistributethisflyer-raiseawarenessinyourcommunity. U.S.companyAquaBountyisseekingapprovalforitsgeneticallyengineeredAtlanticsalmon.Thecompanyclaimsthesalmongrowtomarket-sizetwiceasfastasotherfarmedsalmon.Thesalmonareengineeredwithagrowthhormonegenefrom Chinooksalmonandgeneticmaterialfromoceanpout(aneel-likecreature). AsummaryofAquaBounty?senvironmentalassessmentreleasedbytheUSFoodandDrugAdministrationonSeptember3,2010,revealedthatthecompanyis**not**requestingapprovaltoproducetheGEAtlanticsalmonintheUSbutintendsinstead**toproduceallthe GEsalmoneggsonPrinceEdwardIsland**,thenshiptheeggstoPanamaforgrowing-outandprocessing,forexportintotheUSconsumermarketas?table-ready?fish.Thecompanyisassumingitwillbegrantedapprovalby EnvironmentCanadatoproduceGEsalmoneggsonPEI.AquaBountysaysitisnowpreparingtoalsoaskHealthCanadatoapprovetheGEsalmonforhumanconsumptionhere. **HouseofCommonsMotion:**October2011-Mr.Donnelly(NewWestminster?Coquitlam)?*That,intheopinionoftheHouse,thegovernmentshouldimmediately:(a)providegreaterregulatoryclarity byidentifyingwhichgovernmentdepartmentsareresponsiblefortheregulationofgeneticallymodifiedsalmonandothertransgenicaquaticorganisms;(b)preventtheintroductionintotheCanadianfoodsystemofgeneticallymodifiedsalmondestinedforhumanconsumptionuntilfurtherscientificstudiesareconcludedbytherelevantdepartmentstodeterminetheimpactofgeneticallymodifiedsalmononhumanhealthandonthehealthofmarinespecies,ecosystemsandhabitats;and(c)directthedepartmentsresponsiblefortheregulationofgeneticallymodifiedsalmontoestablishapracticeofnotifyingtheCanadianpublicofallrequestsandapprovalsandofanyinformationandfindingsregardinggeneticallymodifiedsalmonandsalmoneggs.* <aname="eztoc528_2"id="eztoc528_2"><h2>BackgroundInformation</h2> **October2010,Article**,<ahref="/Resources/Topics/GE-Fish/Biotech-Gets-Fishy-with-GE-Salmon2"target="_self">"BiotechGetsFishywithGESalmon"CommonGroundMagazine,

LucySharratt,CBAN. **WhatistheGMSalmon?** TheU.S.companyAquaBountyisaskingtheU.S.toapproveitsgeneticallyengineered(GE,alsocalledgeneticallymodifiedorGM)AtlanticsalmonforhumanconsumptionandsaysitwillsoonaskforapprovalinCanada.Thecompanyclaimsits?AquAdvantage?salmongrowtomarket-sizetwiceasfastasotherfarmedsalmon.That?sbecausetheAtlanticsalmonareengineeredwithagrowthhormonegenefromChinooksalmonandgeneticmaterialfromoceanpout(aneel-likecreature). **TheGMSalmonisfromCanada** AquaBountyisheadquarteredintheUSbuttheGMsalmonisbasedonageneconstructpatentedbytwoCanadianuniversityprofessors.Thecompanyalsohasresearchfacilitiesin PrinceEdwardIslandwhereitgrowsGMfishforexperimentationandtesting. **ThecompanyrecentlyrevealedthatitisnotactuallyaskingforapprovaltogrowthefishintheUSbutplanstoproduceallofthe GMsalmoneggsonPEI,shiptheeggstoPanamaforgrowingoutandprocessing,andthensell?table-ready?GMsalmonintotheUSconsumermarket.**AquaBountydoesnotyethavepermissionfromEnvironmentCanadatocommerciallyproduceitsGMsalmoneggsatitsPEIfacility.EnvironmentCanadarefusestodiscloseifthedepartmentisalreadyassessingarequestfromAquaBounty. **NoOneWantsGMFish** Theaquacultureindustrydoesnotsupportthecommercializationof GMfishandhasstatedthatthereisnomarketdemand. **WillGMSalmonBeOnOurPlateSoon?** AquaBountysaiditisaskingHealthCanadatoapprovetheGMsalmonforeatinginCanada.Thisprocesscouldhappenquickly,especiallyiftheUSgovernmentapprovesthefish.HealthCanadarefusestotellthepublicifthey arealreadylookingatarequesttoapproveGMsalmonforeatinginCanada. After10years,theUSgovernmentcouldbeclosetoapprovingtheGMsalmon.Inlate2010,theU.SFoodandDrugAdministration(FDA)announcedthefinalstagesofitsprocesstoapprovetheGMsalmon,andmadethepreliminaryconclusionthattheGEsalmonissafefortoeatanddoesnotposearisktotheenvironment.ButFDAmeetingsinSeptember2010didnotconcludewitharecommendationtoapprovethesalmon.Instead,theFDA?sowncommitteemembersvoicedseriousconcernsaboutthequalityofthedataandtherisks. **GMSalmonvs.GMPig** <divclass="object-right"><divclass="content-view-embeddedmedia"><divclass="class-image"><divclass="attribute-image"> <ahref="/Resources/Topics/Enviropig"target="_self"><imgsrc="/var/cban/storage/images/media/images/gmo-enviropig/5751-1-eng-CA/GMO-Enviropig_small.jpg"width="100"height="84"style="border:0px;"alt="GMOEnviropig"title="GMOEnviropig"/> TheGMfishisinaracewiththe<ahref="/Resources/Topics/Enviropig"target="_self">GMpigcalled?Enviropig?tobecomethefirstgeneticallyengineeredanimalinourfoodsystem.TheUniversityofGuelphhasalreadyaskedHealthCanadatoapprove?Enviropig?foreating.EnvironmentCanadahasalreadyapprovedreproductionoftheGMpigs. **EnvironmentalRisks** AtlanticsalmonarefarmedinboththeAtlanticandPacificOcean.Theescapeoffarmedfishfromeithermarinenetpensorhatcheriesisserious,reoccurringpollutionthatthreatensspecies.Forexample,matureescapedAtlanticsalmonhavebeenrecordedinstreamsinB.C.. Totrytoavoidafullreviewoftheserisks,AquaBountyisonlyseekingpermissiontoraisethefishinaland-basedfacilityina?remotehighlandarea?ofPanama-eventhoughtheysaytheywanttoraisethefishintheU.S.andothercountries.Thecompanyalsosaysthatallthefishwillbesterilefemales,butadmitstheycanonlyguarantee95%ofthesalmonwillbeunabletoreproduce. AnyriskofGMAtlanticsalmonescapingintothewildisunacceptable,especiallywhenAtlanticsalmonarealreadyindangerofdisappearing. Also,GMsalmoncouldputevenmorepressureonmarineecosystems.Thefast-growingGMsalmoncouldconsumeuptofivetimesmorefoodthanotherfarmedsalmon-becausesalmonarecarnivorous theyactuallyeatlargeamountsofwild-harvestedfishlikeanchoviesandsardines,caughtjusttofeedthem. **HealthRisksandBadScience** CriticshavelongwarnedthattheprocessofgeneticengineeringitselfcouldpossiblyresultinincreasedallergenicityandAquaBounty?sowndatapointtothispotentialintheirGMsalmon. Dr.MichaelHansen,SeniorScientistatConsumersUnionUS,says,?TheFDAisrelyingonwoefullyinadequatedata.Thereissloppyscience,smallsamplesizes,andquestionablepractices.?Forexample,thecompanyusedinsensitiveteststotryandmeasurethelevelsofgrowthhormoneintheGMsalmonandthelevelsoflGF-1,ahormonelinkedtoanumberofcancers. <aname="eztoc528_3"id="eztoc528_3"><h2>LatestNews</h2> **January15,2011:**PEIgroupsmetwithPremierGhizandthePEIMinisteroftheEnvironmentandsecuredapledgethatthePremierwillseekinformationfromEnvironmentCanada.EnvironmentCanadaiscurrentlyrefusingtodiscloseanyinformationaboutapossibleriskassessmenttoallowtheproducti

onofGEsalmoneggsonPEI.<ahref="http://www.theguardian.pe.ca/News/Local/2011-01-14/article-2115762/Frankensalmon-fears-prompt-P.E.I.-group-to-call-for-ban/1"target="_self">Readthestory:PEIgroupsmeetwithPremierandsecurepledgeonGEfish. **December6,2010PressRelease:**<ahref="/Press/Press-Releases/Groups-Oppose-Genetically-Engineered-Salmon"target="_self">GroupsOpposeGeneticallyEngineeredSalmon:DemandImmediateDisclosurefromEnvironmentCanada Sixtyfisheriesandoceansconservation,environmentalandsocialjusticegroupsrevealedtodaythatEnvironmentCanadarefusestoconfirmordenyifthedepartmenthasalreadystartedasecret120-dayriskassessmenttoapprovegeneticallyengineered(GE,alsocalledgeneticallymodifiedorGM)salmoneggproductiononPrinceEdwardIsland.Thegroupstodayalsoreleasedajointstatementof?categorical objection?totheraisingofGEfishandfisheggs.<ahref="/Resources/Topics/GE-Fish/Statement-Opposing-GE-Fish"target="_self">ClickheretoseethestatementopposingGEfishandthelistof60groupssignedsofar. **November22,2010:Pressrelease:**<ahref="/Press/Press-Releases/PEI-Groups-request-Premier-Ghiz-to-press-Environment-Canada-for-disclosure-on-GE-Salmon"target="_self">PEIGroupsrequestPremierGhiztopressEnvironmentCanadafordisclosureonGESalmon <ahref="/Resources/Topics/GE-Fish/Letter-to-Premier-Ghiz-re-GE-Fish"target="_self">LetterfromGroupstoPEIPremier **October27,2010**:<ahref="http://truefoodnow.org/2010/10/27/newly-disclosed-government-documents-conclude-ge-salmon-pose-a-critical-threat-to-marine-environments/#more-1456"target="_self">NewlyDisclosedGovernmentDocumentsConcludeGESalmonPoseACriticalThreatToMarineEnvironments-Expertfisheriesagenciesprohibitgrowingengineeredsalmoninopen-waternetpensundertheEndangeredSpeciesAct. **September21,2010-PressStatement:***GroupsintheUSandCanadaurgetheFDAtoheedyesterday'swarningsbyscientistsregardingthesafetyofgeneticallyengineeredsalmonandrejectcompany'srequestforapproval*--YesterdaytheFDA'sVeterinaryMedicineAdvisoryCommitteefinishedtwodaysofpublichearingsinMarylandonthesafetyofgeneticallyengineered(GE)salmon:"Thecommitteecouldnotavoidpointingtoseriousproblemswiththescience.TheFDAcannotapprovetheGEsalmonafterthecommitteehasraisedsomanyquestionsaboutitssafety,"saidLucySharratt,Coordinator,CanadianBiotechnologyActionNetwork.Manycommitteemembersraisedseriousconcernsaboutthesafetyofthe GEsalmonandquestionsaboutthequalityofthedatausedbytheFDAtocometoitsinitialconclusionthattheGEfishissafe.TheFDAwillnowconsidertheconcernsraisedbythecommitteebeforemakingafinaldecisiontoapproveorrejecttheGEfish,orcallformorestudies.TheFDAhasagreedtoapubliccommentperiodonanenvironmentalassessment. **September20,2010-PressRelease**:<ahref="/Press/Press-Releases/Critics-slam-sloppy-science-on-GE-Fish-at-FDA-hearings"target="_self">Criticsslam?sloppyscience?onGEFishatFDAhearings:FDAoverlookedevidenceofallergypotentialandacceptteddeficientdatasaygroups **September16,2010-PressRelease:**<ahref="/Press/Press-Releases/PEI-Groups-Denounce-Plans-for-Local-GE-Salmon-Production"target="_self">PEIGroupsDenouncePlansforLocalGESalmonProduction:PEIrepresentativetoattendUShearingsonGEfishsafety **September8,2010-PressRelease:**<ahref="/Press/Press-Releases/Company-Reveals-Plan-to-Produce-GE-Salmon-Eggs-in-Canada"target="_self">AsU.S.DecisiononGEFishNearsFinalStage,CompanyRevealsPlantoProduceGESalmonEggsinCanada **September3,2010:**FDAreleasesdocumentsforthefirsttimepriortopublicmeetingsSeptember19-21: <ahref="/Resources/Topics/GE-Fish/Environmental-Assessment-of-GE-Salmon"target="_self">EnvironmentalAssessmentfor"AquAdvantage"Salmon
<ahref="/Resources/Topics/GE-Fish/Briefing-Packet-on-GE-Salmon"target="_self">BriefingPacket:VeterinaryMedicineAdvisoryCommittee **August27,2010-JointPressStatement:**<ahref="http://www.cban.ca/Press/Press-Releases/Coalition-Demands-FDA-Deny-Approval-of-Controversial-GE-Fish"target="_self">CoalitionDemandsFDADenyApprovalofControversialGEFish:FDAConsidersApprovalofGESalmon--theFirstGEFoodAnimal--YetFailstoInformthePublicofEnvironmentalandEconomicRisks. <aname="eztoc528_4"id="eztoc528_4"><h2>MoreInformation</h2> **Canadianregulation:**Canadianregulatorsarenotprepar

edtoevaluateGEfishproperly.TheDepartmentofFisheriesandOceans(DFO)abandoneditsworktodeve
lopregulationsspecifictoGEfish.BecauseDFOcouldnotfigureouthowtoregulateGEfish(TransgenicAq
uaticOrganisms),theyhavepassedthetasktoEnvironmentCanadaunderthe*CanadianEnvironmentalP
rotectionAct*.HealthCanadawillevaluatethesafetyofGEfishforhumanconsumptionundertheexisting*No
velFoods*regulations.HealthCanadaisstilldevelopingparticularguidelinesforevaluatingsafetyunderth
eseexistingregulations. **StatusofWildAtlanticSalmon** PopulationsofwildAtlanticSalm
onhavedeclinedforyears,withnumbersofAtlanticsalmoninCanadadroppingfromapproximately18milli
onin1975to625,000in2008,accordingtotheInternationalCouncilfortheExplorationoftheSea(ICES).W
hileAtlanticsalmoncanbefoundinIreland,theUnitedKingdom,Canada,IcelandNorway,Sweden,Finlan
d,Russia,France,Spain,andtheUnitedStates,manytraditionalsalmonrunsarenowreducedorextinct.In
2009,theCommitteeontheStatusofEndangeredWildlifeinCanada(COSEWIC)listedallpopulationsofwi
ldAtlanticsalmonasa?HighPriorityCandidate?indangerofdisappearingfromCanada.Inyearspriortothi
s,LakeOntariopopulationswerelistedas?Extirpated?andInnerBayofFundy(iBoF)populationsas?End
angered?.CommercialfisheriesforwildAtlanticsalmonwereclosedin1985.Recreationalfisheries,First
NationsandLabradorResidentfisheriesoflargeAtlanticsalmonareallowedbutrestrictedinCanada.
AtlanticsalmonarefarmedinAtlanticCanadabutalsointhePacificOcean,primarilyinChileandalongt
heWestCoastofCanadaandtheU.S.. **BackgroundonthecompanyAquaBounty** In2004
,AquaBountyFarmswasrenamedasAquaBountyTechnologiesInc.CorporateHeadquartersarebasedi
nWaltham,Massachusetts,whiletheAquaBountyPacificsubsidiaryislocatedinSanDiego,California.Aq
uaBountyhasaCanadiansubsidiarybasedinStJohn?s,Newfoundland.AquaBountymaintainsaresearc
handdevelopmentfacilityinBayFortune,PrinceEdwardIsland. Theoriginalresearchconducted
onantifreeze(promoter)proteinswaspatentedbytwoUniversityprofessors,Dr.GarthFletcherfromMem
orialUniversityNewfoundlandandDr.ChoyHewoftheUniversityofToronto,astheir?invention?.Dr.Fletc
herbecameCo-
Founder,Director,andCorporateVicePresidentofA/FProteinInc.,andPresidentofA/FProteinCanadaIn
c-
heisstillProfessorEmeritusattheOceanSciencesCentreofMemorialUniversityofNewfoundland. <
p>InJanuary2010,thefederalgovernmentgrantedpublicfundstoAquaBountyforresearchthatcanbeap
pliedtotheirGEsalmon.Thecompanywasgiven$2.9millionfromtheAtlanticInnovationFundto?improvet
heculture ofreproductivelysterileAtlanticsalmon?withtheobjectiveof?thesafecommerciallaunchoftripl
oidsalmonwithAtlanticCanadaidentifiedasthesourceforassociatedcommercialbenefits,andworldwide
distributionoftheproduct.?