

August 11, 2002

Lester M. Crawford Jr., D.V.M., Ph.D.  
Deputy Commissioner  
US Food and Drug Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, Maryland 20857  
phone:301-827-2410  
Fax: 301-443-3100

# Blue Ridge Outdoors

M A G A Z I N E

[www.blueridgeoutdoors.com](http://www.blueridgeoutdoors.com)

Dear Mr. Crawford:

Blue Ridge Outdoors opposes the current application by A/F Protein to sell genetically engineered salmon, and we urge you and the FDA not to approve it. Clean, healthy un-mutated food is a basic human right; genetically engineered salmon threatens the health of American citizens and could cause long-term damage to aquatic ecosystems.

Genetic manipulation of salmon endangers not only the naturally functioning aquatic ecosystems but also the human beings that depend on them. Genetically engineered fish have the potential to cause irreversible ecological damage to wild fish stocks as well as the wider marine environment. Research at Purdue University shows how even a small population of growth-enhanced, genetically engineered fish could eradicate a large population of wild fish. Proposed safety measures—such as fish sterilizing—are inadequate. Sterility of genetically engineered fish is subject to human error and natural variation and, even if sterile, genetically engineered fish would still compete with wild fish for food and habitat and will affect the overall marine ecology.

Moreover, fish do not obey national boundaries. If released, genetically engineered fish could become an international problem. This makes these genetically engineered organisms an issue in which every government and all citizens have a stake.

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

Sincerely,



Will Harlan  
Editor

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**REGIONAL OFFICES:**

222 South Street  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902  
**phone** 434-817-2755  
**fax** 434-817-2760

9 SW Pack Square, Suite 204-E6  
Asheville, NC 28801  
**phone** 828-225-0868  
**fax** 828-225-0878

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