



Talking Points on Genetically Engineered Fish

Here are some key points to use when talking to people about genetically engineered (GE) fish. We encourage you to use the information below when you speak with friends, family, business owners, and state officials about GE fish.

1. We are working to prevent GE fish from entering our waters.

GE fish present serious human health risks and potentially devastating ecological impacts.

2. The approval process for GE fish is not adequate to protect either human health or the environment.

The FDA is currently the only agency deciding whether GE fish will be approved for commercialization in the U.S. They are using the New Animal Drug Application (NADA) process to determine if these fish pose threats to human health. So far, there have been an insufficient number of tests conducted to determine the potential allergenicity and toxicity concerns in consuming GE fish. In addition, the NADA process is kept secret from the public and does not require a review of the environmental impacts.

3. Fishermen, chefs, and consumers do not want GE Fish.

Thousands of fishermen, chefs and consumers have submitted comments to the FDA calling for a ban on the growing of GE fish in net pens and are requesting a moratorium on the approval of these fish until the adequate human health tests are conducted and labeling of GE fish is required.

4. GE fish threaten the existence of wild fish.

Studies have shown that GE fish could lead to the extinction of wild fish because these “super fish” are more aggressive, consume more food, and attract more mates than wild fish. Although GE fish will attract more mates than wild fish, their offspring will be less fit and less likely to survive. A study by Purdue University found that the release of just 60 GE fish into a population of 60,000 wild fish could wipe out the wild fish population in just a few generations.