

UPDATE on the STATUS OF GM SALMON PRODUCTION in PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, CANADA

Issued by the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network, Council of Canadians PEI Chapter, Earth Action PEI, MacKillop Centre for Social Justice

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THE STATUS OF GM SALMON in CANADA'S FOOD SUPPLY

On August 4th, we learned that approximately 4.5 tonnes¹ of genetically modified (GM or genetically engineered) salmon fillets were sold into the Canadian food market, sometime between April and June 30, 2017.²

This is the first sale of GM salmon in the world and Canada is currently the only market.

There is no mandatory labelling of GM foods in Canada and there was no public announcement at the time of sale.

Many of Canada's large grocery chains have published statements to clarify that they "have no plans" to stock GM salmon.³

THE STATUS OF GM SALMON PRODUCTION in CANADA

GM Salmon Egg Production

The GM Atlantic salmon that was sold into Canada was grown in Panama from GM salmon eggs produced in Prince Edward Island (PEI). The eggs were produced at AquaBounty's long-standing research and development facility at Bay Fortune/Souris in PEI.

GM Salmon Production

GM salmon is not currently grown in PEI at a commercial scale.

AquaBounty has federal government permission to manufacture GM salmon at its Bay Fortune/Souris site but says expansion of this site for the purpose of grow-out is not suitable.⁴ The company is therefore constructing a second site in PEI, for the purpose of GM salmon production.



Construction of a new building has started at Rollo Bay. September 14, 2017



The new road to the Rollo Bay re-development. September 14, 2017

In 2016, AquaBounty purchased a second site in PEI at Rollo Bay which is the location of a discontinued aquaculture facility. In 2017, AquaBounty received provincial government approval to re-develop this site, in a \$13 million project⁵ that is now underway.

- » Existing buildings are being renovated and two structures are now being constructed (3,7000 m² - 40,000 ft²).⁶
- » **The Rollo Bay project will construct a facility with capacity to produce 250 metric tonnes of GM Atlantic salmon each year.**



The ocean is not far from AquaBounty's Rollo Bay GM fish factory construction. September 14, 2017

In AquaBounty's financial report of August 4, 2017, the company said:

"We expect that sales of our fish will be infrequent and of small quantities until our Indiana and Rollo Bay facilities are operational and the fish in those facilities have matured, which is expected in the second half of 2019."

However, neither facility yet has government approval to produce GM fish.

Earlier this year, environmental groups in Canada received clarity from the federal government that AquaBounty does not yet have permission to grow GM salmon at Rollo Bay.⁷ In Canada, this approval could be granted at any time (120 days after submission of a notification from the company). The Canadian public are not notified when a company requests approval and are not consulted.

Groups in PEI continue to monitor this situation with the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network and other environmental groups.

FURTHER RESOURCES

Updates, timelines and background documents: www.cban.ca/fish

Canadian regulation: CBAN Report "Are GM Crops and Foods Well Regulated?" www.gmo inquiry.ca/regulation

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1 Jenna Gallegos, About 4.5 tonnes of GMO salmon consumed in Canada so far, company says. The Washington Post. Fri., August 4, 2017 <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2017/08/04/about-45-tonnes-of-gmo-salmon-consumed-in-canada-so-far-company-says.html>

2 AquaBounty Technologies, Inc. Form 10-Q August 4, 2017

3 See www.cban.ca/fish/retailerstatements

4 AquaBounty Canada Inc. Amended Environmental Impact Statement Proposed Redevelopment of Snow Island's Atlantic Sea Smolt Ltd. Facility 1300 Route No. 2 (Parcel Nos. 849505 and

1022300) Rollo Bay West, Kings County, PEI. April 12, 2017 https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/aqua_bounty_environmental_impact_statement_april_2017.pdf

5 Ibid.

6 Ibid.

7 See <https://cban.ca/take-action/ge-fish/federal-government-responses-re-scientific-assessment-of-gm-fish-production-at-rollo-bay-pe/>