

# Group warns P.E.I. could become home of 'Frankenfish'

Concern is being cast over the growing possibility that genetically modified salmon eggs will be produced in P.E.I.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is considering approval of AquAdvantage® Atlantic salmon eggs.

These eggs include a gene from the Chinook salmon that provides the fish with the potential to grow to market size in half the time of conventional salmon. This fish would be the first food from a transgenic animal application approved by the FDA.

The FDA released a preliminary conclusion of safety in September 2010 revealing that the U.S. company AquaBounty Technologies plans to produce all its GM salmon eggs in P.E.I. and ship the eggs to Panama for grow-out and processing.

AquaBounty Technologies is a biotechnology company focusing on improving productivity in commercial aquaculture — a \$100 billion industry and the fastest growing segment of the worldwide food industry.

Leo Broderick of the Council of Canadians points out the company has not asked for approval to grow the GM fish in the U.S. He says if the FDA approves the GM Atlantic salmon for human consumption, it will do so based on the company's specific plan to produce the GM fish eggs in P.E.I.

"The local Council of Canadians is once again calling on the P.E.I. government to intervene," Broderick said in a statement Tuesday. "P.E.I. could

become the home of the first global Frankenfish."

The Council of Canadians is urging the province to conduct a full environmental review of the AquaBounty facility and genetically engineered salmon.

Broderick adds the campaign to raise public awareness of the dangers

to human health and the environment of GM salmon will be held in public meetings across Atlantic Canada beginning in Charlottetown on Monday, Oct. 24.

Island Green Party leader Sharon Labchuk says AquaBounty has outsourced environmental risk to P.E.I.