



Tuck Tales

Newsletter of the Tuckaseegee Chapter #373 of Trout Unlimited serving the western North Carolina counties of Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain

A Monthly Newsletter

December, 2010

Rod Raffle

We'll be continuing with the raffle for one of Jim Mill's custom graphite rods. There was no winner last month!

December Meeting

NOTICE: BANK MEETING ROOM CONFLICT! The December meeting will be a covered dish supper THURSDAY

evening, Dec. 9th at the United Methodist Church in Sylva. Bring your favorite covered dish to the meeting along with a healthy appetite!

Stream Clean-Up

We had a successful clean-up on the Delayed Harvest section of the Tuck Nov. 13th. Thanks to all who participated!

Email addresses needed

Your editor requests that everyone please provide updated email addresses so we can make certain our data base is up-to-date and you won't miss notification of newsletter and event emails!

Editor's email address:

Send an email to:
craigforrest@sleepyhollowstudio.com

Tuckaseegee Chapter of Trout Unlimited meets the first Tuesday of every month, with the exception of June, July and August, in the Community Room at the rear of the United Community Bank of Highway 107 South in Sylva at 6:30 PM. A meal is provided by the Grub Committee at a cost of \$5 per person. Guest are invited to join us at no charge.



Trout Magazine Story: Biotech Salmon Would Endanger Wild Salmon and Ecosystems

Date: 12/02/2010

This article will appear in *Trout Magazine* later this month:

Arlington, Va.- A Trout magazine story on the threats posed by genetically modified salmon - often called "Frankenfish," shows that such a plan poses grave risks to wild salmon fisheries in the U.S. and around the world.

The [article](#), which will be published in the magazine's upcoming winter issue, shows, based on interviews with fisheries experts, that if the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gives approval to the biotech salmon, there would be no way to ultimately prevent the fish from escaping and breeding with wild salmon and harming valuable fisheries.

The article, written by Susan Q. Stranahan, also notes that if the company, which is promoting the biotech salmon, wins FDA approval to commercially market the fish, trout will become the next fish to be genetically modified for commercial purposes.

Trout Unlimited (TU) is assembling a panel of scientists and fisheries experts to independently assess the impact on U.S. fisheries and may use litigation to challenge the FDA's review process.

"Even though TU is not a litigious organization, legal action would not be out of the question to slow this process down so an informed analysis and decision can be made," says Chris Wood, TU's President and CEO, in the magazine story.

For the last 15 years, AquaBounty, the Massachusetts-based company that is seeking FDA approval to create and sell biotech salmon, has been working on creating a fast-growing salmon by combining the genes of a Chinook salmon and an ocean pout—an eel-like fish. In September, an FDA staff analysis concluded that the

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Endanger Coldwater Ecosystems?

The genie is probably already out of the bottle... editor

genetically-modified salmon is safe to eat and poses little harm to the environment.

However, as the Trout magazine article notes, that decision was made by an agency with little expertise in biology or fisheries management. "...It's like asking the Department of Interior to help figure out the Troubled Asset Relief Program," says Wood.

TU and its 140,000 members have strongly objected to AquaBounty's request for FDA approval and have asked for a full environmental impact statement in



consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"We must be assured that this decision to modify salmon genetics be grounded in science," said Jack Williams, TU's senior scientist. "The FDA was designed to regulate food and drugs, not salmon populations and fisheries around the world," Williams

said. "And this one decision could change wild salmon fisheries around the world forever."

The article points out that confinement of



genetically modified salmon where they are raised is the lynchpin on which this entire plan hinges. Anne R. Kapuscinski, professor of sustainability science at Dartmouth College and a co-editor of "Methodologies for Transgenic Fish," says in the article that AquaBounty's plan "brings the risk of escape [from these two facilities] down to zero."

But, she says that there is a critical question that has yet to be answered. "Who will ensure confinement as the use of these fish proliferate in global markets?" she asks. "That's the question to ask."

And right now, nobody seems to know how that oversight would occur. Buyers of the genetically modified eggs will have to sign contracts with AquaBounty guaranteeing the fish will be raised in carefully confined conditions. In overseas markets, enforcement

of those contractual guarantees would be left to the appropriate foreign authorities.

TU finds neither of those assurances protective enough. "AquaBounty may do everything in its power to keep these fish out of the wild, but as the technology becomes well known and as production ramps up with other people handling the fish, they may not be so good about following the rules," warns Williams.



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