



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## **Resolutions Committee Recommendation**

Resolution #: ANC-14-037

Title: Opposing the Introduction of Genetically Engineered Salmon

### Comments:

This resolution asks NCAI oppose the introduction of and sale of genetically engineered salmon in the United States if the FDA decides to allow it and requests tribal consultation on the matter before any action by the FDA.

### Recommendations:

Edits were made to make the language more universal, less region specific, and to include reference to the trust responsibility.

The Resolution appears to be in order and should be considered with the suggested edits by the Trust Lands, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Subcommittee.

Sponsor a member in good standing (yes/no)?: \_\_\_\_\_



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The National Congress of American Indians  
Resolution #ANC-14-037

**TITLE: Opposing the Introduction of Genetically Engineered Salmon**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**PRESIDENT**  
**Brian Cladoosby**  
*Swinomish Indian Tribal Community*

**FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT**  
**Michael O. Finley**  
*Confed. Tribes of Colville Reservation*

**RECORDING SECRETARY**  
**Robert Shepherd**  
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*Colorado River Indian Tribes*

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**Jerry Isaac**  
*Tanana Chiefs Conference*

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**S. Joe Crittenden**  
*Cherokee Nation*

**GREAT PLAINS**  
**Leander McDonald**  
*Spirit Lake Tribe*

**MIDWEST**  
**Aaron Payment**  
*Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians*

**NORTHEAST**  
**Randy Noka**  
*Narragansett Tribe*

**NORTHWEST**  
**Fawn Sharp**  
*Quinault Indian Nation*

**PACIFIC**  
**Rosemary Morillo**  
*Soboba Band of Mission Indians*

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN**  
**Ivan Posey**  
*Eastern Shoshone Tribe*

**SOUTHEAST**  
**Ron Richardson**  
*Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe*

**SOUTHERN PLAINS**  
**Stephen Smith**  
*Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma*

**SOUTHWEST**  
**Manuel Heart**  
*Ute Mountain Ute Tribe*

**WESTERN**  
**Arlan Melendez**  
*Reno Sparks Indian Colony*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**Jacqueline Johnson Pata**  
*Tlingit*

**NCAI HEADQUARTERS**  
1516 P Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.466.7767  
202.466.7797 fax  
www.ncai.org

**WHEREAS**, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, salmon is now and has always been central to the culture, religion and society of the Indian people of the Pacific Northwest, and the continued harvest of salmon is critical to maintaining the culture, society and religion of those Indian people; and

**WHEREAS**, salmon is an integral and important part of the subsistence and diet of the Indian people of the Pacific Northwest and as a result Indian people consume greater amounts of salmon than does the general public resulting in greater risk that Indian people will be adversely affected by any impact of genetically engineered salmon; and

**WHEREAS**, Indian people engage in salmon harvest as part of their federally protected right to take fish reserved in treaties negotiated between Indian tribes and bands and the United States, and the introduction of genetically engineered salmon will likely adversely affect this treaty right to take fish; and

**WHEREAS**, should genetically engineered salmon escape into the wild habitat, those genetically engineered salmon will adversely affect wild salmon, salmon upon which Indian people are dependent, by, at a minimum: competing with wild salmon for food and rearing locations, and by inbreeding with wild salmon which could result in the extirpation of wild salmon, and studies to date have not ruled out these two possible adverse impacts of genetically engineered salmon on wild salmon; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Food and Drug Administration is now and has been for some years considering an application to allow the introduction and sale of genetically engineered salmon into the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, given the disproportionate impact genetically engineered salmon would have on the health of Indian people in the Pacific Northwest, their culture and society and the continued meaningful implementation of their treaty right to fish; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that NCAI strongly opposes the United States Food and Drug Administration approving the introduction of genetically engineered salmon into the United States for consumption, research or production; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the United States Food and Drug Administration have meaningful government-to-government consultations pursuant to Executive Order 13175 in regards to this issue.

### **CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2014 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center, June 8-11, 2014 in Anchorage, Alaska, with a quorum present.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recording Secretary

ideration at the June 8-11, 2014 Mid-Year Session in Anchorage, AK.



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Resolution #ANC-14-037

Suggested Edits

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**WHEREAS**, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, salmon is now and has always been central to the culture, religion and society of the many Native Indian ~~people of the Pacific Northwest~~, and the continued harvest of salmon is critical to maintaining the our culture, society and religion ~~of those Indian people~~; and

**WHEREAS**, salmon is an integral and important part of the subsistence and diet of the Indian-Many Native ~~people of the Pacific Northwest~~ and as a result Indian people consume greater amounts of salmon than ~~does~~ the general public, which resulting inputs Native people at a greater risk ~~that Indian people will beof being~~ adversely affected by any potential impact of genetically engineered salmon; and

**WHEREAS**, Indian people engage in salmon harvest as part of their federally protected right to take fish reserved in treaties negotiated between Indian tribes and bands and the United States and as part of the federal trust responsibility, and the introduction of genetically engineered salmon will likely adversely affect this treaty and trust right to take fish; and

**WHEREAS**, should genetically engineered salmon escape into the wild habitat, those genetically engineered salmon will adversely affect wild salmon, salmon upon which Indian people are dependent, by, at a minimum: competing with wild salmon for food and rearing locations, and by inbreeding with wild salmon which could result in the extirpation of wild salmon, and studies to date have not ruled out these two possible adverse impacts of genetically engineered salmon on wild salmon; and

**WHEREAS**, the ~~United States~~U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is ~~now and has been for some years~~ considering an application to allow the introduction and sale of genetically engineered salmon into the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, given the disproportionate impact genetically engineered salmon would have on the health of ~~Indian people in the Pacific Northwest~~American Indians and Alaska Natives, their culture and society, and the continued meaningful implementation of their treaty and trust right to fish; now

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that NCAI strongly opposes the ~~United States Food and Drug Administration~~ approving introduction of genetically engineered salmon into the United States for consumption, research or production; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NCAI calls upon the ~~the United States Food and Drug Administration~~FDA to have meaningful government-to-government consultations pursuant to Executive Order 13175 in regards to this issue before taking any action on genetically engineered salmon.

#### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2014 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center, June 8-11, 2014 in Anchorage, Alaska, with a quorum present.

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President

**ATTEST:**

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Recording Secretary