

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 273

To prevent the escapement of genetically altered salmon in the United States,  
and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 11, 2021

Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Ms. BONAMICI) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To prevent the escapement of genetically altered salmon in  
the United States, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Prevention of  
5 Escapement of Genetically Altered Salmon in the United  
6 States Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON SALE OF GENETICALLY ALTERED**  
8 **SALMON.**

9 (a) PROHIBITION.—It shall be unlawful for a per-  
10 son—

1           (1) to ship, transport, offer for sale, sell, or  
2 purchase a covered fish, or a product containing cov-  
3 ered fish, in interstate or foreign commerce;

4           (2) to have custody, control, or possession of,  
5 with the intent to ship, transport, offer for sale, sell,  
6 or purchase a covered fish, or a product containing  
7 covered fish, in interstate commerce;

8           (3) to engage in net-pen aquaculture of covered  
9 fish;

10          (4) to release a covered fish into a natural envi-  
11 ronment; or

12          (5) to have custody, control, or possession of a  
13 covered fish with the intent to release it into a nat-  
14 ural environment.

15          (b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to  
16 a fish, fish part, or product—

17           (1) under confined use, or intended for confined  
18 use, for scientific research;

19           (2) collected for the purpose of enforcing this  
20 Act; or

21           (3) if the Under Secretary of Commerce for  
22 Oceans and Atmosphere, in consultation with the  
23 Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife  
24 Service and any other Federal, State, or tribal entity  
25 the Under Secretary considers appropriate, reviews

1 any application requesting an action by a depart-  
2 ment or agency of the Federal Government to per-  
3 mit an act prohibited under subsection (a), including  
4 any environmental assessment prepared as part of  
5 that application, and—

6 (A) prepares a finding of no significant im-  
7 pact in accordance with the National Environ-  
8 mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et  
9 seq.); or

10 (B) finds the application to be consistent  
11 with an environmental impact statement pre-  
12 pared by the Under Secretary in accordance  
13 with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environ-  
14 mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332)  
15 that includes—

16 (i) an environmental risk analysis that  
17 assesses the potential direct and indirect  
18 impacts from escapement of covered fish  
19 on wild and cultured fish stocks and envi-  
20 ronments that may be exposed to such cov-  
21 ered fish;

22 (ii) a failure mode and effects analysis  
23 that quantitatively assesses the best- and  
24 worst-case probabilities of failure of each  
25 applicable confinement technique;

1 (iii) an assessment of the costs of con-  
2 trol or eradication of escaped covered fish;  
3 and

4 (iv) an assessment of the potential  
5 economic damage in terms of loss of pro-  
6 duction or sales to relevant wild and cul-  
7 tured fish stocks and environments from  
8 the escapement of covered fish.

9 (c) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS.—

10 (1) NOTICE.—Each agency, department, or  
11 other unit of the Federal Government shall promptly  
12 notify the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans  
13 and Atmosphere when an action involving covered  
14 fish, or a product containing covered fish is first  
15 identified by such unit.

16 (2) ENSURING COMPLIANCE.—The Under Sec-  
17 retary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, in  
18 cooperation with each Federal, State, or tribal entity  
19 that the Under Secretary considers appropriate, may  
20 monitor any mitigation measures proposed under  
21 subsection (b)(3) to ensure implementation and com-  
22 pliance therewith.

23 (3) PROVISIONS AS COMPLEMENTARY.—The  
24 provisions of this Act are in addition to, and shall  
25 not affect the operation of, other Federal, State, or

1 local laws regulating a covered fish, or a product  
2 containing covered fish.

3 (d) RULES AND REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall  
4 prescribe such rules and regulations as the Secretary con-  
5 siders necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

6 **SEC. 3. ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES.**

7 (a) ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary of Commerce  
8 may enforce section 2 in the same manner, by the same  
9 means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties  
10 provided under sections 308, 309, 310, and 311 of the  
11 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Manage-  
12 ment Act (16 U.S.C. 1858, 1859, 1860, and 1861).

13 (b) PENALTIES.—A person who violates section 2  
14 shall be subject to the penalties, and entitled to the privi-  
15 leges and immunities, under sections 308, 309, 310, and  
16 311 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and  
17 Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1858, 1859, 1860, and  
18 1861).

19 **SEC. 4. REPORT ON RISKS TO WILD FISH STOCKS.**

20 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment  
21 of this Act, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans  
22 and Atmosphere shall transmit to the Committee on Com-  
23 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the  
24 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-  
25 resentatives the report under section 1007 of the Food

1 and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007 (21  
2 U.S.C. 2106).

3 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) **CONFINED USE.**—The term “confined use”  
6 means any operation, undertaken within a secured,  
7 land-based facility, that involves a covered fish con-  
8 trolled by specific measures that effectively prevent  
9 the covered fish from having contact with and im-  
10 pact on the external environment, including biologi-  
11 cal and physical confinement measures.

12 (2) **COVERED FISH.**—The term “covered fish”  
13 means any finfish, live or dead, including the  
14 gametes, fertilized eggs, offspring, and descendants  
15 thereof, that is modified or produced through the  
16 application of recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid  
17 (DNA) technologies, using DNA from an organism’s  
18 own genome or that of another species, that over-  
19 come natural physiological reproductive barriers and  
20 that are not techniques used in traditional breeding  
21 and selection.

22 (3) **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.**—The  
23 term “finding of no significant impact” has the  
24 meaning given the term in section 1508.13 of title  
25 40, Code of Federal Regulations.

1           (4) PRODUCT.—The term “product” means an  
2           item manufactured or produced for sale or use as  
3           food.

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