



**B.C.**

**SALMON FARMERS ASSOCIATION**

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## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

### **B.C. Salmon Farmers reinforce stance against ‘transgenics’**

*March 1, 2000* – The Board of Directors of the B.C. Salmon Farmers Association (BCSFA) has reinforced its position against the use of transgenic – or genetically modified – fish in aquaculture.

At a Board meeting on February 24, 2000 in Campbell River, B.C., BCSFA Directors voted unanimously to strengthen its policy against the use of transgenic fish in British Columbia. Membership in the BCSFA is contingent upon companies using only naturally bred salmon for food production in their operations.

The prohibition against the use of transgenics is also enshrined in the BCSFA Code of Practice – a voluntary code of operational guidelines enacted on January 1, 2000 to improve the environmental performance of B.C. salmon farms prior to the implementation of new aquaculture regulations in British Columbia.

“B.C. salmon farmers are wholly opposed to the use of genetically modified fish in aquaculture – both here in British Columbia and around the world,” said BCSFA Executive Director Anne McMullin. “Transgenic fish are not used in commercial production today, and should not be used in the future unless science can prove that they present no danger to human health, wild stocks or the marine environment.”

McMullin acknowledged the growing public concern about the use of genetically modified fish in aquaculture. She noted, however, that transgenic fish are not approved for use in aquaculture production anywhere in the world and that the international salmon farming industry has taken a firm stance against their use.

“There are activist groups that are using the future threat of transgenic fish in aquaculture as a means to oppose salmon farming as practiced today,” McMullin said. “It’s important that the public understands that the salmon farming industry shares its concerns about genetically modified fish, and has no intention to use transgenics now or in the future.”

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#### **For more information:**

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