

## **Resolution of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists**

*The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (an organisation dedicated to the scientific study of fishes, amphibians and reptiles) passed the following resolution at their annual meeting on June 20, 2000, in La Paz, Mexico.*

Whereas current research indicates the presence of reduced fitness and abnormalities in salmon into which non-salmonid genes have been introduced (transgenic salmon), and Whereas a high incidence of escape of cage-reared salmonids is well documented, and Whereas salmonids that are altered to contain extra copies of growth hormone genes and other genes are a threat to natural populations through genetic pollution, leading to depressed fitness, and Whereas transgenic salmon also represent potential predators and competitors with negative effects on native fishes, many of which are threatened or endangered,

Therefore be it resolved that the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists petitions the United States Food and Drug Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of the Interior, Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, and appropriate state agencies, as well as Canadian Federal and Provincial agencies, to establish a system for oversight and responsibility to regulate development of transgenic fishes.

The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists strongly favors a moratorium on creation or marketing of transgenic salmonids until it is firmly established that such fish will not gain access to natural waters, by accident or intent.

Be it also resolved that we recognize clearly problems of world hunger and the need to work toward solutions to food shortages, but evidence indicates that transgenic salmonids are neither an effective nor ecologically safe solution to these problems. Therefore, we also suggest that adequate research funds be directed toward sustainability of aquatic ecosystems as an investment toward solution to these problems.

*The resolution has been forwarded to 24 U.S. and Canadian governmental agencies.*