

National Academies gene drive report ignores key policy issues

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis.

If there is a prize for the fastest emerging tech controversy of the century the '[gene drive](#)' may have just won it. In under eighteen months the concept of a '[mutagenic chain reaction](#)' that can drive a genetic trait through an entire species became the subject of a US National Academy of Sciences [high profile study](#), with a 216-page report. Previous technology controversies have taken [from a decade to over a century](#) to reach that level of policy attention. So why were Gene Drives fast-tracked to science academy report status?

Reading the final result, '[Gene Drives on the Horizon](#),' it appears that what drove the politics to get such a report published, that awesome and troubling political power that gene drives hold, is bizarrely underplayed. It's not a bad report – it takes seriously the threat to biodiversity and warns strongly against environmental release.

Yet for all that, the NAS's report fails to deliver a robust policy study because it ducks some of the most important questions.

Read full, original post: [The National Academies' Gene Drive study has ignored important and obvious issues](#)