

Americans love genetically modified mosquitoes much more than other GMOs

When the news started to spread about a plan to release genetically engineered mosquitoes in the Florida Keys, it seemed laughable...I don't see that reaction much anymore. A [recent] poll...found that [60 percent of Florida residents](#) support tweaking mosquitoes' genes to fight diseases, while 30 percent opposed. This isn't statistical noise: [Polls are](#) consistently finding that [big majorities](#) of Americans [support](#) the idea.

What happened? In a word, Zika. It was the accumulation of those pictures of babies with Zika-related microcephaly, the news that Zika-carrying mosquitoes are buzzing around Miami, and the realization that climate change will usher the disease farther north.

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This can all be explained by what I'll call...the self-centeredness principle of risk perception...The benefits of any change are distributed unevenly and when the benefits are centered mostly on others, or diffused among many, it's easy for me embrace a scary, sci-fi scenario as a reason for opposition. But if it becomes clear that I stand to benefit, I'll want to know how likely those scenarios really are....

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis. Read full, original post: [Americans love genetically modified mosquitoes much more than other GMOs](#)