Indiana fish farm will grow genetically engineered AquAdvantage salmon in 2018

A biotechnology company is upgrading a defunct fish farm where it plans to grow AquAdvantage Salmon — the first genetically engineered animal for human consumption as food.

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The company is building a 250-metric ton (551,156 pounds annually) production unit in Rollo Bay, Prince Edward Island, Canada, and is upgrading the former Bell Aquaculture fish farm in Albany [Indiana] to increase production to 1,200 metric tons (2,645,547 pounds) a year.

"Both of these facilities must be approved by the FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) prior to their initial stocking with AquAdvantage Salmon, but we anticipate both to be operational in 2018 with a first harvest of commercial production in late 2019," the company reported.

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AquAdvantage Salmon integrates a Pacific Chinook salmon growth-hormone gene into the genome of an Atlantic salmon. The Chinook gene is under the control of a "promoter" from an eel-like fish called an ocean pout.

The FDA determined in 2015 that AquAdvantage Salmon was as safe to eat as non-genetically engineered salmon....

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AquAdvantage Salmon grow to market size faster than conventional Atlantic salmon and require less feed.

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