FDA lifts 2016 import ban on GMO AquAdvantage salmon, confirms fish safe to eat

The Food & Drug Administration announced [March 8] that it will be deactivating a 2016 import alert that prevented genetically engineered (GE) salmon from entering the U.S. AquAdvantage salmon has been genetically engineered to reach a key aquaculture industry growth marker faster [than] its non-GE Atlantic salmon counterpart.

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"As was determined during the FDA's 2015 review, this fish is safe to eat, the genetic construct added to the fish's genome is safe for the animal...." FDA said.

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FDA stated that, with the deactivation of the import alert, AquAdvantage salmon eggs can now be imported to AquaBounty Technologies' contained growout facility in Indiana to be raised into salmon for food. On April 26, 2018, FDA approved a facility near Albany, Ind., for rearing AquAdvantage Salmon. This secure, land-based tank system in Indiana is AquaBounty Technologies' sole approved growing facility in the U.S.

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AquAdvantage salmon, which are all female and effectively sterile, would be raised in a secure indoor facility in freshwater, land-based tanks. Multiple physical containment measures like nets, screens and filters would prevent any fish from escaping....

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