

Quick to grow, safe to eat

After 20 years, the United States Food and Drug Administration has approved for consumption AquaBounty Technologies' genetically modified salmon. This makes the fast-growing Atlantic Salmon the first GM animal to hit dinner plates. ST looks at some facts about the salmon.

- Instead of taking about three years to reach the market weight of between 4kg and 5kg like ordinary Atlantic salmon, the GM salmon requires just 18 months.
 - It is modified to carry a growth hormone gene from the Pacific chinook salmon and the DNA from the eel-like ocean pout. This helps to keep the hormone active all the time.
 - The salmon is made sterile so that it cannot interbreed with other fish in the wild.
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Source: UNITED STATES FDA, EMERITUS PROFESSOR HEW CHOY LEONG,
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE
PHOTO: MARK CHEONG ST GRAPHICS