Investigating the GMO Conflict Through Stakeholder Perspectives.

**Role**: Consumer

**Instructions**: Read the scenario below to understand your role in the activity. Use the websites below to find information to develop an effective “argument” (including claim, evidence, and reasoning) for whether you would or wouldn’t want to eat AquAdvantage salmon as a general seafood consumer. Write your argument on the accompanying “Claim-Evidence-Reasoning" worksheet.

**Scenario.** You are a consumer that regularly eats seafood. You recently learned that your grocery store sells AquAdvantage Salmon, a genetically modified salmon that grows to adult size in half of the time as traditional salmon. Use the general information and links to decide whether you would purchase AquAdvantage Salmon to eat. Be sure to support your claim with relevant scientific evidence.

**Question:** Would you buy AquAdvantage Salmon?

**General Information about AquAdvantage Salmon:**

* AquAdvantage salmon is the first genetically modified animal to be approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (approved in 2015).
* Scientists inserted a growth gene from Chinook Salmon that is expressed year-round into this variety of salmon.
* It grows to adult salmon size and market weight in half the time as traditional wild salmon without requiring more food.
* This product is not available commercially in the U.S. but is for sale in Canada and Norway.
* Salmon is an increasingly popular food product with significant health benefits. In 2014, salmon was the second most consumed seafood in the U.S.
* Salmon you purchase in the grocery store was either caught in the wild by fisherman or raised in pens on land by fish farmers.
* Wild salmon populations have decreased substantially due to overfishing, pollution, environmental changes, habitat deterioration, and disturbances of migration routes.
* AquAdvantage salmon developed to reduce pressure on decreasing wild Salmon populations.
* The AquAdvantage salmon is required to be grown in land-based pens to reduce interactions with wild salmon populations and potential contamination of the genetic material of wild salmon populations.
* The U.S. Food and Drug Administration tested this product for 20 years before approving it and determining that it is safe for human consumption.
* An estimated 95% of AquAdvantage salmon eggs are female and sterile to reduce the risk of them breeding with themselves or other salmon.
* Environmentalists are concerned about the risk of AquAdvantage salmon escape if they are grown in pens in rivers or other water sources.
* Similar to other livestock, farmed fish are treated with antibiotics to reduce the potential for diseases while they are being raised.

**For More Information:**

* AquaBounty Frequently Asked Questions: <https://aquabounty.com/innovation/frequently-asked-questions/>
* Center for Food Safety – Genetically Engineered Fish Fact Sheet: <https://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/files/ge-salmon-fact-sheet_56203.pdf>
* GMO Answers – 9 Things You Need To Know About GMO Salmon: <https://gmoanswers.com/nine-9-things-you-need-know-about-gmo-salmon>
* PBS – FDA OKs Genetically Modified Salmon for Human Consumption: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/fda-oks-genetically-modified-salmon-for-human-consumption>