

Ongoing application in Norway



Vitenskapskomiteen
for mat og miljø
Norwegian Scientific Committee
for Food and Environment

VKM Report 2023: [XX]

**|Environmental risk assessment of genetically
modified sterile VIRGIN[®] salmon for use in
research trials in aquaculture sea-cages**

Background

Salmon farming pose a threat to wild salmon due to potential genetic pollution from escaped fish.

Sterile fish do not pose the same threat. Triploid fish is the only option today.

VIRGIN salmon are genetically sterile due to a knock-out mutation of the «dead end» gene using the CRISPR-Cas9 technology.





VKMs mandate

Perform an ERA of releasing 303 VIRGIN salmon in aquaculture sea-cages for research trials.

VKM are to evaluate all aspects of possible interactions between the fish and the environment, also considering the risk should they escape

VKM are NOT to evaluate human health risks.

VKM has 80 days to complete the assignment.

Status

Application received on the 18th of April.

Project group evaluated the content and found that there was not sufficient documentation on the 11th of May – «Stop the clock»

Additional information received on 23rd of June. Clock started.

Scheduled to be completed by September.

