

GENETIC MODIFICATION 2: Fish oil debate

THE SCENARIO

Oily fish, such as salmon and mackerel, are rich in omega-3 fish oils, which are good for the heart and for brain development. Fish don't actually *produce* omega-3; they accumulate the oils by eating marine algae or prey that have eaten marine algae. In the fish farming industry, fish don't accumulate omega-3 in the same way – so they are fed fish oil, which is in limited supply. So, researchers are trying to genetically modify marine algae to make it more efficient at producing omega-3 fish oils. Produced in big enough quantities, GM algae can be used in fish farms as an alternative to fish oil.
