

October 24, 1975

Captain Roy L. Morgan
P.O. Box 5061
Everett, Washington 98206

Dear Captain Morgan,

I have your interesting note of October 17th about genetic aquaculture.

Before we can hope to make any useful applications of genetic engineering in this field - and I suspect that this will take quite a few years - I think we will have to acquire much more basic knowledge on the nutrition, physiology, ecology as well as genetics of useful food species. There is probably a very great deal that could be done by applying conventional breeding methods - as has been done in goldfish culture for different purposes - and this basic knowledge of marine genetics would be absolutely indispensable before attempting to apply more sophisticated approaches.

I do know that there is a group connected with the SYNTEX Corporation in Palo Alto that is very much interested in the culture of crustaceans along somewhat similar lines and I suggest that you get in touch with them. I am afraid I do not have more particular information on who is involved.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL/rr

MORGAN, Captain