

SEAFOOD TRADE MATTERS

e-Newsletter

SafeFish Update February 2015



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Codex Technical Input

Currently there are a number of Codex issues relating to Seafood that are being progressed. SafeFish assists Codex Australia by liaising with relevant sectors of the industry to review and input into the technical work that is being developed so that standards and practices are generated that are commensurate to risk as well as being appropriate for the Australian situation. Anyone can provide comment and input into this process through SafeFish, and it also provides a platform in which the seafood industry can stay in touch with what is happening in the international forum.

If you would like to be a part of this process, please contact Natalie.dowsett@sa.gov.au or visit our website to register www.safefish.com.au

Currently, SafeFish is scoping input and review of the following issues:

1) **Codex Committee on Fish & Fishery Products (CCFFP) Optional Final Products**

At present, there is a proposal that the already adopted or draft Appendices should be integrated into the *Code of Practice for Fish & Fishery Products* so that only the essential

safety or quality aspects are included. The justification for the proposed elimination of the Appendices is that some delegations believe that Codex texts should focus on protecting consumer health and essential quality factors, and not on commercial quality provisions, which should be established between buyers and sellers. Other delegations believe however, that the Appendices should be retained and completed as they were an important part of the standards, quality provisions are still used in international trade and if they were not retained, trade problems may arise due to the different quality requirements applied in various countries. SafeFish is seeking advice either way on whether the appendices should be retained or removed. For relevant documents [click here](#).

Comments Due to SafeFish by 1st June 2015

2) Codex Committee on Contaminants in Fish (CCCF) Methyl-mercury in Fish

There is currently debate around the appropriate method of dealing with the risk of methyl-mercury in fish. An out of session electronic working group has prepared a working document that is debating a proposal that a mercury standard should be introduced for Albacore and Big Eye Tuna products. The Codex working group proposes that due to the difference in distribution of mercury in tuna fillets, if this standard is developed, it should apply to all tuna products except skip jack tuna. SafeFish is looking to convene a teleconference to discuss this topic so if you are interested in joining please let us know ASAP. For relevant documents [click here](#).

Comments Due to SafeFish by 18th February 2015

3) CCFFP Code of Practice for Scallops

Within the *Code of Practice on the Processing of Fresh & Quick Frozen Raw Scallop Products*, a short haul voyage process is being drafted. SafeFish has had input into this and is looking for industry/technical representatives that would be interested in providing further comment/collaboration on this work.

Register Interest with SafeFish 18th February 2015

4) Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) General Principles of Food Hygiene and the HACCP Annex

A questionnaire relating to the General principles of Food Hygiene and the Hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) Annex is being distributed for comment. The questionnaire aims to determine the scope and structure of the resultant GPFH & HACCP annex, agreement of principles/concepts to include, as well as questions to provide a basis to debate on additional concepts and proposals for improvement of the document. SafeFish is interested in receiving completed questionnaires and/or comments on the document from Industry. For relevant documents [click here](#).

Questionnaires or any comments/input due to SafeFish by 18th February 2015

5) Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF) Call for Data on Veterinary Drugs

There is currently a call for data for drugs that are currently under evaluation. This will help to establish Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for drugs of particular interest, such as

Ethoxyquin, Sisapronil (phenylpyrazole), and Zilpaterol hydrochloride. SafeFish is interested in liaising with any industries that use or have information relating to the above drugs. For relevant documents [click here](#).

Data and/or comments due to SafeFish by 8th March 2015

SafeFish Business Model Proposal

SafeFish funding through the Australian Seafood CRC is due to finish following their shutdown in June 2015, given this, SafeFish has been investigating different funding options to ensure the longevity of the program and so we can continue the important work that we do. Given this change, it was decided by the partners that it was important that a full review of SafeFish was undertaken to identify the current business model and future potential options that the program could operate under. A consultant was engaged to perform this review on behalf of SafeFish and this process is almost complete. Once the review is finalized it and made publicly available it will be available on our website: www.safefish.com.au

SafeFish in Press

A number of news articles are due to be published in upcoming editions of Seafood magazines to advertise the work of SafeFish, these are as follows:

- Australian Seafood Magazine: “Straight facts on Seafood Hazards”. This is an article that promotes the new brochure that SafeFish has created which collates all of the seafood safety fact sheets making it an easy reference guide for industry.
- FRDC Fish Magazine: “Expertise Underpins Safe Fish Trade”. This article is an expose on the individuals that run the SafeFish secretariat. It introduces the SafeFish chair, Anne Astin and provides information on the Program Manager, Alison Turnbull and the Executive Officer, Natalie Dowsett. A follow up article is planned to introduce the partners and provide an overview of the technical and expert panels that also make up the SafeFish model.