

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
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Agenda Item 3

CX/FFP 06/28/3

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

Twenty-eighth Session
Beijing, China
18-22 September 2006

PROPOSED DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE STANDARD FOR CANNED SARDINES AND SARDINE TYPE PRODUCTS: *CLUPEA BENTINCKI*

Background

The 21st Session of the Commission (1995) decided that the Accelerated Procedure should be used for the inclusion of additional species, and in particular *Clupea bentincki*. Following the application of the Procedure for the inclusion of new species (CL 1995/30-FFP), the 23rd Session of the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (1998) forwarded the Proposed Draft Amendment to the Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine Type Products to the 23rd Session of the Commission (1999). The Commission referred it back to the Committee due to lack of consensus. The 24th CCFFP (2000) forwarded again the Proposed Draft Amendment to the Commission (2001), where the debate was suspended due to lack of time. The 26th Session of the Commission (2003) had an extensive debate but did not come to a consensus and referred the Proposed Draft Amendment back to the Committee.

The 26th Session of the Committee (2003) noted that the Commission had returned the Proposed Draft Amendment due to lack of consensus. The Committee recalled that the discussion on the above standard and the inclusion of new species in this standard had a long history and that there were no new elements put forward in order to resolve this issue, therefore it recommended that the Executive Committee as standards management body discuss whether to discontinue work on the amendment or to propose other appropriate action (ALINORM 04/27/18, para. 7). The 54th Session of the Executive Committee recognized that there was no consensus and that the proposal to discontinue work would require further discussion by the Commission (ALINORM 04/27/4, paras. 28-31).

Consideration of the Proposed Draft Amendment in the 27th Session of the Commission

The Commission recalled that the Proposed Draft Amendment had been considered at the 23rd, 24th and 26th sessions of the Commission and that no consensus had been reached. The 26th Session had returned the Proposed Draft to the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products for further consideration. The Committee had recognized that there were no new elements put forward in order to resolve the issue, and had recommended that the Executive Committee discuss whether to discontinue work or to propose other appropriate action. The 54th Session of the Executive Committee had recognized that there was no consensus and that the proposal to discontinue work would require further discussion by the Commission.

The Delegation of Chile opposed discontinuation of work since all the requirements of the current procedure for the inclusion of new species in Codex standards had been followed, and there were no scientific or technical justification to prevent the inclusion of this species in the Standard. The Delegation also stressed the considerable efforts of Chile to provide all relevant information in order to comply with the procedure

and the economic impact of the failure to include *Clupea bentincki* in the Standard. This position was supported by several delegations.

The Delegation of Morocco supported discontinuation of work as there was no consensus on the amendment to the standard, although it had been considered at several sessions of the Committee and the Commission, and there would be no merit in returning it to the Committee for further discussion. The Delegation stressed the need to revise the procedure for the inclusion of species and the labelling provisions in the current Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine-Type Products, as they could create substantial confusion on the nature of the products covered by the Standard. This position was supported by several delegations.

The Delegation of the European Community supported discontinuation of work on the inclusion of species until such time as the procedure had been revised, and stressed the problems related to the current procedure.

Several delegations stressed the need to adhere to the current procedure, as adopted by the Commission, in order to ensure the credibility of the standard-setting process that should be based on clear rules and criteria.

The Chairperson proposed to temporarily defer a decision on the Proposed Draft Amendment pending revision of the current procedure for the inclusion of species, and to reconsider this issue at a later date. Several delegations objected to this proposal.

The Commission recognized that there was no consensus on the discontinuation of work and agreed to return the Proposed Draft Amendment to the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, where it had been held at Step 4 pending advice from the Commission. The Delegation of Morocco objected to this decision (ALINORM 04/27/41, paras. 104-110).

The 27th Session of the Committee could not discuss the question in detail due to lack of time and agreed that consideration of the relevant Agenda Item would be deferred until the next session (ALINORM 05/28/18, paras. 22-28 and 149-155).

The Committee is therefore invited to consider the Proposed Draft Amendment at Step 4.

PROPOSED DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE STANDARD FOR CANNED SARDINES AND SARDINE-TYPE PRODUCTS

(At Step 4 of the Accelerated Procedure)

2. Description

2.1 Product Definition

2.1.1 Canned sardines or sardine type products are prepared from fresh or frozen fish of the following species:

*Clupea bentincki*¹

¹ To be added to the current list