

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 10

CX/FFP 08/29/8-Add.1

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS
Twenty-ninth Session
Trondheim, Norway
18-23 February 2008**

**PROPOSED DRAFT REVISION OF THE PROCEDURE FOR THE INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL
SPECIES IN STANDARDS FOR FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS
COMMENTS AT STEP 3
(Morocco and New Zealand)**

MOROCCO

The Proposed Draft prepared by the working group led by France includes the revision of the methods for the identification of fish species on the basis of **sensory** and **scientific** criteria, before any new species is introduced in Codex standards, in order to safeguard the homogeneity of the species within each standard and to avoid any risk of potential confusion for consumers on the nature of the products. The inclusion of this procedure in the Procedural Manual will therefore address the legitimate concerns expressed by different delegations, while ensuring fair practices in food trade and taking into account the needs identified by developing countries.

The Delegation of Morocco generally supports the content of the Proposed Draft Revision of the said Procedure, as well as its rapid advancement to Step 3, and proposes the following in order to improve this draft:

For sensory analysis (point 4 in Annex II - Evidentiary Dossier): the three laboratories should be selected by the CCFFP.

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand is pleased to offer the following comments in relation to the request for comments.

Appendix II – Information on Existing and Potential Resources

This section is relevant to whether there will be sufficient product in international trade to warrant Codex elaborating a standard. The proposed draft procedure contains a series of criteria that all relate to the existing resource – not to the potential resource (despite the title of this section). Therefore it would seem important to also include some form of stock assessment information so that the potential for the product to be in international trade into the future can be estimated. This would also remove any need for a reference to CITES. New Zealand does not support the reference to CITES within the evidentiary dossier as this is not a criterion relevant to the setting of food standards.

In relation to the past history while 10 years of data might be helpful, the most recent data will be the most useful, especially when considering new fisheries or aquaculture products being developed, accordingly New Zealand suggests 5 years of data to be sufficient, although more would be desirable if available.

This section would therefore be reworded:

2 – Information on Existing and Potential Resources

- (a) Fishing grounds: localisation of the main ground on the FAO map “major fishing area for statistical proposal”;
- (b) A minimum of the last 5 years annual catch;
- (c) Estimate of amount of stock present in the wild together with sufficient age distribution data sufficient to demonstrate that the product will continue to be in significant trade for the foreseeable future.
- (d) A minimum of the last 5 years annual data on the candidate species aquaculture production marketed for human consumption.