



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

**Thirty-second Session**

**Bali, Indonesia**

**1 – 5 October 2012**

**PROPOSED DRAFT REVISION OF THE PROCEDURE FOR THE INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL  
SPECIES IN STANDARDS FOR FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS  
(At Step 3 of the Procedure)**

Prepared by the Electronic Working Group led by Chile and France

Governments and interested international organizations are invited to submit comments on the attached Proposed Draft Revision at Step 3 (*see* Appendix II) and should do so in writing in conformity with the Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts (*see Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission*) to: the Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint WHO/FAO Food Standards Programme, FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy, by email [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org) or fax: +39-06-5705-4593 with a copy to Codex Contact Point, Norwegian Food Control Authority, P.O. Box 8187 Dep. 0034 Oslo, Norway, Email: [ccffp@mattilsynet.no](mailto:ccffp@mattilsynet.no), fax: +47.74.11.32.01 **by 31 August 2012.**

**Format for submitting comments:** In order to facilitate the compilation of comments and prepare a more useful comments document, Members and Observers, which are not yet doing so, are requested to provide their comments in the format outlined in the Annex to this document.

## **BACKGROUND**

During the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, The Committee agreed to establish an electronic Working Group led by Chile and France, working in English, French and Spanish, with the mandate of working towards a simplified procedure with the aim of facilitating the inclusion of new species in standards for fish and fishery products. (REP 11/FFP, paragraph 108).

The new proposed draft for the revision of the inclusion procedure of new species in Codex standards on fish and fishery products should be based on the circular letter published in 1995 (CL 1995/30-FFP).

On November, 2011, Chile and France submitted an invitation to participate in the electronic Working Group (eWG) to all Codex Members and Observers. The list of participants is included in Appendix I.

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## DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORKING GROUP

The electronic Working Group incorporated a diagram in order to facilitate the understanding of the inclusion procedure. However, during the 1<sup>st</sup> round of comments, the structure of the diagram was discussed by several participating members. This led to its elimination, because it didn't facilitate the understanding of the procedure.

The scope of the procedure was a relevant matter. Finally, it was agreed that it wouldn't apply to species currently included in a standard or to species destined to the non-food industry. This modification intends to facilitate the understanding and application of the procedure, and reduces efforts when gathering the pertinent information.

This document describes in detail the responsibilities of the member that requests the inclusion, as well as the responsibilities of the Committee and of the working group. It also establishes that the candidate specie(s) must be compared with species already included in Codex standards.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of comments helped to reorder and clarify some aspects related to the responsibilities of the parties involved in the procedure. An option was also included regarding the information of exports, imports and annual production, which stated that the data of the past 5 years should be presented only if available.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Working Group recommends that the Committee consider:

- The Proposed Draft Revision of the Procedure for the Inclusion of Species in Standards for Fish and Fishery Products (*see* Appendix II);

The Committee is also requested to discuss:

- ✓ How and who will select the 3 species that will be compared with the candidate species. It is suggested that these are proposed by the proposing member and approved by the Committee, by consensus; and
- ✓ if the scientific name of the candidate species information must be published by an internationally recognized institution or if it will be possible for this information to be published by an institution recognized only at national or regional level.

## Appendix I

## List of Participants

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**Appendix II****PROPOSED DRAFT REVISION OF THE PROCEDURE FOR THE INCLUSION OF  
ADDITIONAL SPECIES IN CODEX STANDARDS FOR FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS****(At Step 3 of the Procedure)****Preamble**

Any member can make a proposal to revise an existing standard to include an additional species. In accordance with the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and on the basis of a project document submitted by the proposing member, the *Committee on Fish and Fishery products* (CCFFP) may decide to forward to the *Codex Alimentarius Commission* a proposal for new work. When there is a proposal to start new work on including additional species, the CCFFP initiates the inclusion procedure as described below to facilitate its work.

**1- SCOPE**

This procedure for inclusion applies to the relevant standards falling within the mandate of the CCFFP. The aim of the procedure is to enable new species to be included in the existing standards following a simple and harmonised approach. [This procedure does not apply to species currently included in a standard or species dedicated for the non-food industry.]

**2- RESPONSIBILITIES AND DIVISION OF COMMITTEE DECISIONS**

The division of labour is the following:

**2.1. PROPOSING MEMBER**

- Develops a project document according to the Procedural Manual.
- Provides information on the candidate species pursuant to Section 3.1 (Description) and Section 3.2. (Economic data).

If the sensory evaluation is required by the Committee:

- Proposes three species, the most representatives of the market, to be compared with the candidate species.
- Proposes three laboratories for sensory evaluation (see section 3.3).

**2.2. COMMITTEE**

- Reviews the information listed in Section 3 - information required.

The information provided by the proposing member should enable the Committee to decide whether the relevant standard must be revised by checking that:

- a. the taxonomic relationship of the candidate species is established;
  - b. the candidate species is described with sufficient precision;
  - c. economic potential is clearly demonstrated.
- Decides to transmit to the *Codex Alimentarius Commission* a proposal for new work; and at the same time,
  - Considers whether or not to establish a working group to coordinate the process and present recommendations to the Committee for consideration.
- a. If the Committee is of the view that the information submitted at this stage is sufficient to allow the inclusion of the candidate species, the Committee may agree with the inclusion without further assessment being required. In this case, the Committee forwards the draft amendment of the standard to the *Codex Alimentarius Commission* for its adoption.

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- b. However, where the Committee is in doubt as to whether the candidate species should be included in a processed product standard based on the above information, the Committee may decide to form a working group to oversee sensory testing of the product(s) of the candidate species.
- Decides which are the laboratories selected to perform the sensory evaluation and designates the leading laboratory in charge of coordinating the assessment and preparing the final report.
  - Decides which are the species selected to be compared with the candidate species.
  - Reviews the report of the Working Group on sensory evaluation.
  - Decides if the candidate species is adequate for inclusion in the relevant standard.
  - Transmits the proposed amendment of the standard to the *Codex Alimentarius Commission* for its adoption.

### **2.3. WORKING GROUP**

- Reviews [eventually] the documentation provided by the proposing member(s).
- Supervises the sensory tests.
- Examines the laboratory report on the sensory evaluation.
- Informs the Committee if the candidate species satisfy the requirements for inclusion in the relevant standard.

[If a working group is not established then the tasks of the working group will be conducted by the Committee.]

## **3- INFORMATION REQUIRED**

A member(s) willing to propose the inclusion of a new species into a standard should, when submitting the proposal, provide the following information to the Committee.

### **3.1. CANDIDATE SPECIES DESCRIPTION**

To be valid, the information provided should originate from an internationally recognised institute(s) [the Committee develops a list of approved institutions] or sources, e.g. internet, literature databases, [provided that in every case its veracity can be proven].

Species description should include, in order to allow the identification of the products (both as whole fish and commercially processed products):

- a. The internationally recognised scientific name, either from e.g. FISHBASE, or if appropriate by attestation from a[n internationally] recognised institute(s) [at a national, regional or international level];
- b. Morphological and anatomical characteristics (including illustrative material as appropriate);
- c. Taxonomic position of the candidate species in relation to all the species listed in the relevant Codex standard, presented in the form of a dendrogram or a list; the reference of the database(s) used for taxonomic classification (for example FAO database) or bibliographic references;
- d. Where appropriate, depending on the product (e.g. canned fish), specific DNA and/or electrophoretic protein profile sequence from international database(s).

### **3.2. ECONOMIC DATA OF THE CANDIDATE SPECIES**

#### **3.2.1. Resources**

- a) Location of the main capture grounds on the FAO map “*Major Fishing Areas for Statistical Purposes*”.
  - b) Yearly catches or the aquaculture production of the candidate species, preferably [at least] for the past 5 years [, if data are available].
- [c) Estimate of volume of stocks present in the natural environment if available.]

(Characteristics connected to market value such as: frequencies (length, height, amount of meat) but also, colour fish meat, frequencies roe, etc.)

#### **3.2.2. Processing technology and marketing**

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- a) Data on processed products of the candidate species
- types of marketed products,
  - trade names used,
  - main processing treatment(s) e.g. canning, marinating, smoking,
  - annual production (preferably [at least] for the past 5 years [ if data are available]).
- b) Data on international trade of food products derived from the species (yearly quantity and values preferably [at least] for the past 5 years [ if data are available])
- [status: frozen, fresh, alive,]
  - production data,
  - import/export data.

### **3-3 PRINCIPLES OF THE SENSORY TESTING PROCEDURE**

The sensory testing procedure has to be carried out by three [accredited] independent laboratories with relevant expertise in sensory assessment of fish and fishery products. Ideally, the three laboratories should be chosen from different Codex regions [, excluding the proposing member (s)]. The proposing member(s) may at this stage of the procedure suggest the three laboratories that can carry out independent verification. The Committee may decide to choose other laboratories than those suggested. [These three laboratories have to be recognised by the Committee as suitable for the task]. The laboratories will be chosen from countries where the products are mainly consumed, when possible. The Committee has to designate one of the three laboratories as the leading laboratory, which will coordinate the tasks and will prepare the report on sensory assessment.

The performance of the tests should conform to the *Codex Guidelines for the Sensory evaluation of Fish and Shellfish in laboratories* (CAC - GL 31-1999).

In addition, the three laboratories shall use the same protocol including:

- a. The sensory assessment method.
- b. The species to be compared (candidate species and at least three species currently included in the Description section of the pertinent standard).
- c. The sampling protocol (e.g. number of samples, sampling period, kind of products).
- d. The criteria and parameters to evaluate the results.

### **4- REPORT OF THE SENSORY ASSESSMENT OF THE CANDIDATE SPECIES**

The leading laboratory shall provide a report with the results of the sensory analysis from the designated laboratories.

The report on the sensory evaluation should make clear whether processed products from the candidate species are or are not significantly different from products covered by the relevant standard [and specific products derived from the reference species].

The Working Group reviews the laboratory report and presents recommendations to the Committee for consideration regarding the inclusion of the candidate species.

### **5- FINAL COMMITTEE DECISION**

When the Committee has decided to conduct a sensory evaluation, it should decide, on the basis of the Working Group recommendations, whether the candidate species is suitable for inclusion in the relevant standard.

If affirmative, the Committee forwards the proposed draft amendment of the standard to the *Codex Alimentarius Commission* for its adoption.



## GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

In order to facilitate the compilation and prepare a more useful comments' document, Members and Observers, which are not yet doing so, are requested to provide their comments under the following headings:

- (i) General Comments
- (ii) Specific Comments

Specific comments should include a reference to the relevant section and/or paragraph of the document that the comments refer to.

When changes are proposed to specific paragraphs, Members and Observers are requested to provide their proposal for amendments accompanied by the related rationale. New texts should be presented in underlined/bold font and deletion in ~~striketrough font~~.

In order to facilitate the work of the Secretariats to compile comments, Members and Observers are requested to refrain from using colour font/shading as documents are printed in black and white and from using track change mode, which might be lost when comments are copied/pasted into a consolidated document.

In order to reduce the translation work and save paper, Members and Observers are requested not to reproduce the complete document but only those parts of the texts for which any change and/or amendments is proposed.