



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



**World Health
Organization**

Methylmercury and total mercury in fish

Request for data on methylmercury and total mercury in orange roughy, pink cusk-eel and all toothfish

Issued 16 July 2021

Background

The 14th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF14), held virtually, from 3-13 May, 2021, agreed to start new work on maximum levels (MLs) for methylmercury in orange roughy and pink cusk-eel and to re-establish the Electronic Working Group (EWG) led by New Zealand and Canada to develop MLs and associated sampling plans for consideration by CCCF15 (2022). The EWG will also consider further data to establish the feasibility of setting an ML for Patagonian toothfish.

We are requesting submission of new / additional data on methylmercury and total mercury in orange roughy, pink cusk-eel and all toothfish (Antarctic and Patagonian) which have not previously been submitted. The submitted data should cover approximately the last 12 years. Data should be submitted by 15 October 2021, to allow time for data analysis and drafting and review of the paper. The call for data can also be viewed online at <https://www.who.int/teams/nutrition-and-food-safety> or <http://www.fao.org/food-safety/scientific-advice/calls-for-data-and-experts-expert-rosters/en/>.

Date for submission

The submission of data is requested before

15 October 2021

This deadline applies to all data to be submitted.

WHO will be compiling data for the EWG. **All new data must be submitted to WHO through the GEMS database, which is now easily accessible on the web.** To access the GEMS database, go to <https://www.who.int/teams/nutrition-and-food-safety/databases/global-environment-monitoring-system-food-contamination>. Please read the Manual "Instructions for electronic submission of data on chemical contaminants in food and diet" before attempting to submit data to GEMS. To submit data, you will need an account, and instructions on creating an account are found on page 2 of the manual. For technical questions about submitting data to GEMS, please contact Philippe Verger at WHO (vergerp@who.int) and cc andrew.pearson@mpi.govt.nz.

Note that data already submitted to the GEMS Food Database do not need to be re-submitted.

When submitting data to the GEMS/Food database for this work, please:

- Provide complete information on the LOQ and LOD of analytical methods.
- Provide information in the "Local Food Identifier" or "Remark/references" fields of the database to allow more specific identification of samples, e.g., Is a food fresh or processed, including canned, preserved, salted, etc.?
- Provide information on "State of Food Analysed," i.e., cooked or raw, and on "portion analysed" i.e. fat content, dry weight, as is or as consumed.
- Provide information for both methylmercury and total mercury and indicate if these form a paired analysis;
- Ideally provide information from at least two locations in representative fishery areas;

Provide information whether it is domestically caught fish or imported fish.