



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CL 2026/17-FFP
January 2026

TO: Codex Contact Points
Contact Points of international organizations having observer status with Codex

FROM: Secretariat, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme,
Codex Alimentarius Commission
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla,
00153 Rome, Italy

SUBJECT: Request for comments on the review of the standards for fish and fishery products

DEADLINE: 20 February 2026

BACKGROUND

1. In preparation for the 48th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC48, 2025), the Codex Secretariat together with the host secretariat of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP) conducted a review of the 24 fish and fishery products commodity standards assessing alignment with the *Codex Procedural Manual* in terms of the format of the standards.¹
2. CAC48 agreed that CCFFP, as part of its terms of reference (ToR), review the standards for fish and fishery products to ensure they are up to date in terms of format, taxonomic accuracy, and relatedness to more recently developed Codex texts.²
3. The Codex Secretariat has prepared this circular letter (CL 2026/17-FFP) requesting comments with regards to the above to facilitate the discussion at CCFFP37 (2026) related to the review of the standards for fish and fishery products.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION AND COMMENTS

4. Codex Members and Observers are invited to consider and provide comments on the questions in Appendix I of this CL.

GUIDANCE ON THE PROVISION OF COMMENTS

5. Comments should be submitted through the Codex Contact Points of Members and Observers using the OCS.
6. Contact Points of Codex Members and Observers may login to the OCS and access the document open for comments by selecting "Enter" in the "My reviews" page, available after login to the system.
7. Contact Points of Codex Members and Observers are requested to provide proposed changes and relevant comments/justifications on a specific paragraph (under the categories: editorial, substantive, technical and translation) and/or at the document level (general comments or summary comments). Additional guidance on the OCS comment categories and types can be found in the [OCS Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).
8. Other OCS resources, including the user manual and short guide, can be found at the following link: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/resources/ocs/en/>.
9. For questions on the OCS, please contact Codex-OCS@fao.org.

¹ CX/CAC 25/48/12 Rev.2 Appendix II

² REP25/CAC, paragraph 112(iv)

REVIEW OF THE STANDARDS FOR FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

FORMAT OF EXISTING COMMODITY STANDARDS FOR FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

To align with the “Format of Codex commodity standards” in the *Codex Procedural Manual*, it is proposed to make some changes to specific sections in specified commodity standards.

Section on Contaminants

1. Do you agree to include a reference to the *General standard for contaminants and toxins in food and feed* (CXS 193-1995) for the following standards? If not, please select the relevant standard(s) in the list below and provide a rationale for why not.

CXS	Standard for
3-1981	<i>Canned salmon</i>
36-1981	<i>Quick frozen finfish, uneviscerated and eviscerated</i>
37-1991	<i>Canned shrimps or prawns</i>
70-1981	<i>Canned tuna and bonito</i>
90-1981	<i>Canned crab meat</i>
92-1981	<i>Quick frozen shrimps or prawns</i>
94-1981	<i>Canned sardines and sardine-type products</i>
95-1981	<i>Quick frozen lobsters</i>
119-1981	<i>Canned finfish</i>
165-1989	<i>Quick frozen blocks of fish fillets, minced fish flesh and mixtures of fillets and minced fish flesh</i>
166-1989	<i>Quick frozen fish sticks (fish fingers), fish portions and fish fillets - breaded or in batter</i>
167-1989	<i>Salted fish and dried salted fish of the gadidae family of fishes</i>
189-1993	<i>Dried shark fins</i>
190-1995	<i>Quick frozen fish fillets</i>
191-1995	<i>Quick frozen raw squid</i>
222-2001	<i>Crackers from marine and freshwater fish, crustaceans and molluscan shellfish</i>
236-2003	<i>Boiled dried salted anchovies</i>
244-2004	<i>Salted atlantic herring and salted sprat</i>

Section on Hygiene

2. Do you agree to change the title from “Hygiene and handling” to “Hygiene” for the following seven standards? If not, please select the relevant standard(s) in the list below and provide the rationale for why the title should remain as “Hygiene and handling”.

CXS	Standard for
94-1981	<i>Canned sardines and sardine-type products</i>
189-1993	<i>Dried shark fins</i>
191-1995	<i>Quick frozen raw squid</i>
302-2011	<i>Fish sauce</i>
311-2013	<i>Smoked fish, smoke-flavoured fish and smoke-dried fish</i>
312-2013	<i>Live abalone and for raw fresh chilled or frozen abalone for direct consumption or for further processing</i>
315-2014	<i>Fresh and quick frozen raw scallop products</i>

Section on Weight and measure

3. Do you agree that a section on “Weight and measure”³ be included in some or all of the commodity standards for fish and fishery products⁴? Please specify which standard(s) your answer refer to and, in case you do not agree to the inclusion of such a section, provide justification for this.

Section of Methods of analysis and sampling

4. Do you agree to change the title of the section “Sampling, examination and analyses” to “Methods of analysis and sampling”? If not, please specify the standard(s) and provide the rationale for why the title should remain as “Sampling, examination and analyses”.

Section on Defectives and Lot acceptance

5. All existing commodity standards for fish and fishery products include sections on “Definition of defectives” and “Lot acceptance” even though these are not listed in the “Format for Codex Commodity Standards” of the *Codex Procedural Manual*.

Do you agree to consider moving the text on defectives and lot acceptance under other sections, or into an appendix to the standard? If not, please specify the standard(s) and provide the rationale for why the sections should remain as is.

TAXONOMIC ACCURACY

6. Are you aware of any need for update of species name included in fish and fishery standards?

If yes, please specify the standard(s) and please provide the species name currently used as well as the new name. Please also include reference(s) to the scientific literature for your proposed updates.

RELATEDNESS TO MORE RECENTLY DEVELOPED CODEX TEXTS

7. Are you aware of any need for updates of references in fish and fishery standards to more recently developed Codex texts?

If yes, please specify the standard(s) and please provide the references that should be included.

OTHER ISSUES

8. Are there any Codex texts under the purview of CCFFP that you think need to be reviewed from a technical perspective to evaluate if they are up to date? If yes, please specify which standard(s) and provide a rationale for why a review is needed.

³ According to the *Codex Procedural Manual*, the section on “Weight and measure” should include all provisions, other than labelling provisions, relating to weights and measures, e.g. where appropriate, fill of container, weight, measure or count of units determined by an appropriate method of sampling and analysis.

⁴ Only one FFP commodity standard, *Standard for fish sauce* (CXS 302-2011), contain a section on weight and measure.