

**REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATE  
ON THE 36th SESSION OF THE  
CODEX COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS (CCFFP)**

**October 7-11, 2024  
Report Adoption: October 17, 2024**

**BACKGROUND SUMMARY**

The 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP) was hosted by Norway and chaired by Ms. Vigdis Synnøve Veum, Specialist Director, from the Norwegian Food Safety Authority. The United States was represented by U.S. Delegate Melissa Abbott of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, U.S. Alternate Delegate Steven Wilson of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and a representative of the U.S. Codex Office. Almost 40 countries participated in the session, which was met by correspondence from October 7-11, 2024, with final report adoption held virtually on October 17, 2024.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

The 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCFFP agreed to:

- Include *Sardinella lemuru* in the list of sardine species under Section 2.1 in the *Standard for canned sardines and sardine-type products* (CXS 94-1981).
- Amend the following scientific names in Section 2.1 of *Standard for canned sardines and sardine-type products* (CXS 94-1981)
  - *Sardinops neopilchardus* and *Sardinops caeruleus* replaced by *Sardinops sagax*;
  - *Clupea bentincki* replaced by *Strangomera bentincki*; and
  - *Etrumeus teres* replaced by *Etrumeus sadina*
- Insert *Sardinella fimbriata* and *Amblygaster sirm* (formerly known as *Sardinella sirm*) in the *Standard for canned sardines and sardine-type products* (CXS 94-1981) based on previous decisions by CAC13 and CAC15.
- The consequential amendments to the labelling provisions for non-retail containers in fish and fishery products standards.
- The intended use of the provision on amino acid nitrogen.
- The considerable interest in future Codex work on seaweed and other algae.

A summary of the meeting of the 36th Session of CCFFP is given below. The final report is posted on the Codex Website at <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCFFP&session=36>.

**NEXT SESSION OF THE CCFFP**

The 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCFFP completed its work, as approved by the 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC43, 2020), and has no future sessions scheduled at this time.

## MEETING SUMMARY

### **PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE *STANDARD FOR CANNED SARDINES AND SARDINE-TYPE PRODUCTS* (CXS 94-1981)**

**To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? Yes**  
**Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes**  
**Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No**

#### **United States Objective**

An electronic working group (EWG) was established by CCFFP35 to evaluate if the *Standard for canned sardines and sardine-type products* (CXS 94-1981) could be amended to include the fish species *S. lemuru* in the list of Sardinella species under Section 2.1. After completing tasks in accordance with the *Procedure for the Inclusion of Additional Species in Codex Standards for Fish and Fishery Products* from the *Codex Procedural Manual*, the EWG concluded in their report, a recommendation to amend CXS 94-1981 to include *S. lemuru* in the list. The United States objective was to support their recommendation.

#### **Outcome/ Conclusion**

The Committee agreed to forward for adoption by CAC47 the inclusion of *S. lemuru* in the list of sardine species under Section 2.1 of the *Standard for canned sardines and sardine-type products* (CXS 94-1981).

### **PROPOSAL TO UPDATE THE SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF FOUR SARDINE SPECIES INCLUDED IN *STANDARD FOR CANNED SARDINES AND SARDINE-TYPE PRODUCTS* (CXS 94-1981)**

**To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? Yes**  
**Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes**  
**Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No**

#### **United States Objective**

The United States objective was to propose an update to names of four sardine species in *Standard for canned sardines and sardine-type products* (CXS 94-1981) to properly recognize the fish due to changes in nomenclature.

#### **Outcome/ Conclusion**

With clarification from the Codex Secretariat that the proposed changes would be considered editorial, the Committee agreed to submit the names to CAC47 as proposed:

- i. *Sardinops neopilchardus* and *Sardinops caeruleus* replaced by *Sardinops sagax*;
- ii. *Clupea bentincki* replaced by *Strangomera bentincki*; and
- iii. *Etrumeus teres* replaced by *Etrumeus sadina*

**THE INSERTION OF *SARDINELLA FIMBRIATA* AND *SARDINELLA SIRM* IN THE STANDARD FOR CANNED SARDINES AND SARDINE-TYPE PRODUCTS (CXS 94-1981)**

**To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? Yes**  
**Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes**  
**Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No**

**United States Objective**

The United States objective was to acknowledge the two named species that had accidentally been omitted in the *Standard for canned sardines and sardine-type products* (CXS 94-1981) since 1979 and support their inclusion moving forward.

**Outcome/ Conclusion**

The Committee agreed to rectify the omission with an editorial update to the *Standard for canned sardines and sardine-type products* (CXS 94-1981) accordingly. The two names included *Sardinella fimbriata* and *Amblygaster sirm* to account for an update in scientific names.

**Other Comments**

Some countries felt the two species should be considered against the *Procedure for the Inclusion of Additional Species in Codex Standards for Fish and Fishery Products* included in the *Codex Procedural Manual* since 2013. A reservation from Morocco was noted, but others felt that since the omission error occurred before the procedure existed, it did not apply.

**THE LABELLING PROVISIONS FOR NON-RETAIL CONTAINERS IN FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS STANDARDS**

**To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? Yes**  
**Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes**  
**Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No**

**United States Objective**

The United States objective was to support consequential amendments to the labelling provisions for non-retail containers in existing and draft standards as listed in the Agenda Item 2 Paper--Matters Arising from the Codex Alimentarius Commission and Other Subsidiary Bodies (CX/FFP 24/36/2, Tables 1 – 3 in Annex II), in light of the new standard entitled *General Standard for the Labelling of Non-Retail containers of Foods* (CXS 346-2021).

**Outcome/ Conclusion**

The Committee agreed to forward to CAC47 the amendments to the labelling provisions for non-retail containers in fish and fishery products standards for adoption.

**THE INTENDED USE OF THE PROVISION FOR AMINO ACID NITROGEN IN THE STANDARD FOR FISH SAUCE (CXS 302-2011)**

**To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? No**  
**Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes**  
**Is it anticipated that this item will or should be raised at the CAC? No**

**United States Objective**

The United States objective was to consider the request from CCMAS to clarify the intended use of the provision for amino acid nitrogen in the *Standard for Fish Sauce* (CXS 302-2011) and support the CCFFP36 recommendation.

**Outcome/ Conclusion**

The Committee agreed to replace the method AOAC 940.25 with AOAC 978.02 for total nitrogen determination as suggested by CCMAS and clarified that the provision of amino acid nitrogen was to determine amino acid level during the fermentation process of fish sauce.

**NEW/FUTURE WORK**

**PROPOSAL FOR THE INCLUSION OF "SEAWEED" IN THE TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) OF CCFFP**

**To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? N/A**  
**Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes**  
**Is this contentious? No**

**United States Objective**

The United States objective was to support future work on developing relevant Codex guidance on food safety linked to the consumption of seaweed.

**Discussion in Relation to United States' Objectives**

FAO/WHO work on food safety hazards linked to the consumption of seaweed suggests that there may be value in developing relevant Codex guidance on this subject. The CCFFP also considered Korea's proposal to include "seaweed" in the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the CCFFP.

**Outcome/ Conclusion**

The Committee agreed to inform CAC47 of the interest in future Codex work on seaweed and other algae; however, a new work item would need to be developed and proposed for CAC approval prior to considering whether to amend the TOR of the CCFFP.