



U.S. Delegate's Report, 34th Session of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products

The 34th Session of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products ([CCFFP](#)) convened October 19-24 in Alesund, Norway. The session was chaired by Norway and was attended by delegates from 49 member countries and one member organization (the European Union). The United States was represented by U.S. Delegate Bill Jones (U.S. Food and Drug Administration), Alternate Delegate Steve Wilson (National Marine Fisheries Service), four government advisors and two nongovernment advisors. The formal committee session was preceded by two days of physical working group sessions and delegation meetings.

Summary/Highlights

This was the last planned physical meeting of CCFFP, and the U.S. delegation considered the session an overall success, with progress made towards aligning international codes of practice with current scientific knowledge of best practices to protect public health, and with acceptable quality provisions to assure fair trade. The Committee agreed to undertake new work on one remaining item (guidance and sampling plans for histamine in relevant fish and fishery product standards) by correspondence. The Committee did not accept a U.S. proposal to allow the food additive sodium aluminum phosphate in breaded fish products because the removal of the additive from the standard had been agreed during the previous session and approved by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) in 2014.

The following paragraphs discuss the conclusions of the committee in more detail. The full official report of the session is available on the Codex Alimentarius website at <http://www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/en/>.

Texts Forwarded to the Commission for Final Adoption

- Draft Code of Practice for Processing of Fish Sauce
- Draft Code of Practice on the Processing of Fresh and Quick Frozen Raw Scallop Products
- Draft Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (section on sturgeon caviar)
- Proposed Food Additive Provisions in Standards for Fish and Fishery Products
- Section 7.4, Estimation of fish content in the Standard for Quick Frozen Fish Sticks (Fish Fingers), Fish Portions and Fish Fillets – Breaded or in Batter (CODEX STAN 166-1989)

Discontinued Work/Work to be Continued in Other Fora



- Discussion Paper on Nitrogen Factors (amendments to section 7.4 of the Standard for Quick Frozen Fish Sticks (Fish Fingers), Fish Portions and Fish Fillets – Breaded or in Batter (CODEX STAN 166-1989)
CCFFP requested that the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) develop (1) a table of nitrogen factors for the chemical analysis method in the standard, and (2) a uniform procedure for sampling and analysis. The United States and United Kingdom agreed to continue work on the table and uniform procedure in conjunction with FAO.
- Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (optional product requirements for commodities / appendix on modified atmosphere packaging)
CCFFP agreed to discontinue work on Appendices 1-11 of the Code and remove references to them from relevant sections of the Code. Modified atmosphere packaging could be taken up by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) if a country wished to propose new work.
- Standard for Pirarucu Fish
The committee agreed to discontinue consideration of undertaking work on a standard for this fish. A project document was not submitted, so there was no discussion.
- Proposed Food Additive Provisions in Standards for Fish and Fishery Products
CCFFP requested the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) align the provision of ethylene diamine tetra acetates in food category 9.4 of the General Standard for Food Additives with the Standard for Canned Shrimps or Prawn.

CCFFP declined to consider a U.S. proposal to allow the food additive sodium aluminum phosphate in breaded fish products because the removal of the additive from the Standard had been agreed during the previous session and no concerns or reservations were noted at the time. The committee's recommendation was approved by the CAC in 2014. Any future work on this issue will need to be brought to CCFA for consideration.

The United States (and Thailand) also believe there is an error/technical discrepancy in the maximum level specified for disodium diphosphate. The Codex Secretariat will verify the correct level and unit of expression and refer the matter to the CAC for decision.

New Work

The committee agreed to start new work on histamine control and sampling plans by correspondence within CCFFP. Japan and the United States will prepare a new work project document for consideration by the Executive Committee and the CAC in 2016, and, subject to approval of the new work, will lead an electronic working group to develop a document for circulation and comment. The U.S. supported the chair's



recommendation that work on histamine guidance and sampling plans be moved to CCFH; however, all of the other countries that commented, including Japan, recommended that work on histamine continue within the CCFFP.

Next Session

Outside of the plenary session, lunch and evening working groups were convened to help complete the above work. No future physical sessions of the committee are planned. The committee will continue its work on histamine by correspondence, if approved by the CAC.