



April 2018

## SafeFish Update

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Dear SafeFish Stakeholder,

Please find below an update of SafeFish activities for you to share with your members. Please remember to visit our website: [www.safefish.com.au](http://www.safefish.com.au) or contact us for further information.

### SafeFish Partners Meeting 13.04.18

The next SafeFish partners meeting was on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at the Holiday Inn, at Melbourne Airport.

Key discussions that took place at this meeting were as follows:

- An overview of the new SafeFish project due to run from July 2018 to June 2021
- A presentation by Jane Lovell CEO of Seafood Industry Australia (SIA) which provided an overview of SIA and how it will collaborate with SafeFish in the future
- A presentation by Brendan Tatham CEO of Primesafe Victoria that provided an overview of their current work, emerging issues for seafood and areas of collaboration and mutual interest
- Brainstorming of current issues facing the seafood industry including scoping their potential economic, social and environmental impacts in order for them to be prioritized at the next meeting.

A communique detailing the main discussion points from the meeting will be produced and available on the SafeFish website in May 2018.

### Research Project Updates:

#### Fighting Food Waste and Fraud Cooperative Research Centre (CRC)

SafeFish assisted in submitting a proposal from a seafood consortium in bid for the Fighting Food Waste and Fraud CRC. The proposal was to build value for the seafood industry and protect markets through investigation of seafood authenticity tools, seafood fraud, packaging and novel ways to maximize value from seafood whilst reducing food loss.

On April 12, 2018, it was announced that the Fight Food Waste CRC had been successful in attracting \$30 million in funding from the CRC Program to form an overall resource pool of \$133 million over 10 years. The CRC will commence on 1 July, 2018.

#### PASE Biotxin Test Kits – Extension Project

The project to assist the shellfish industry in the uptake of rapid paralytic shellfish toxin test kits is well underway. Training was provided to 25 participants in Tasmania in January, and participants have been supplied with readers (where necessary) and test kits to cover this



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biotoxin season. Assistance given for industry to create appropriate QA/QC plans around the test kit storage and use. A trial proficiency run will be undertaken in April/May.

## Food Authenticity Project

A Seafood Authenticity review that aims to identify the available provenance and authenticity tools available in Australia is currently underway. The review is currently being finalized by Dr. Pahl and it will be peer reviewed by an external expert in May 2018. It is likely that the final report will be available on the SafeFish website and distributed to interested parties by June 2018.

## CODEX Activities:

SafeFish have been monitoring and providing input into the following Codex standards and Codes of Practice for seafood:

- Ciguatera – Call for experts and data

The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee for Food Additives (JECFA) has called for scientific data on ciguatera including occurrence and chemical data, toxicological, epidemiological and clinical data, exposure assessment data, and risk management measures. JECFA also called for experts in the field to develop scientific advice.

**SafeFish has initiated an Australian working group to respond to the call for data. Data must be supplied to JECFA by 1 May 2018.**

- Methylmercury – Update on establishing maximum levels (MLs) in fish species

CCCF12 was held in The Netherlands on 12-16 March 2018. A copy of the Draft Report from the meeting is available from SafeFish or can be accessed on the CCCF12 meeting website. At the meeting **CCCF agreed on the proposed draft MLs for methylmercury in tuna (1.2mg/kg), alfonsino (1.5mg/kg), marlin (1.7mg/kg) and shark (1.6mg/kg). The proposed MLs will be advanced for adoption** at the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC41).

- Lead – Review of MLs in foods

In December 2017 SafeFish submitted a response to Codex Australia on the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft discussion paper and noted that **processed fish has moved from an ‘intermediate’ to a ‘high’ priority**. In March 2018 at CCCF12, the Committee noted the need to take exposure data into account when establishing priorities as occurrence and trade data alone did not fully capture those commodities with high contribution to the exposure. Brazil will lead an electronic working group to develop a revised discussion paper for CCCF13. **JECFA will publish a call for occurrence data for lead in the priority commodities.**

- Non Dioxin-like PCBs – Revision to cover non dioxin-like PCBs in food and feed

**A proposed Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of dioxins, and dioxin-like PCBs and non dioxin-like PCB contaminations in food and Feed will be advanced for adoption** at the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

- Histamine – Update on control guidance
- Food Hygiene – Revision to the recommended Code of Practice
- Maximum Residue Limits (MRL)s in Seafood – Grouping fish species
- Alignment of Food Additives – Notification of changes to a variety of seafood products

If you would like to provide input around any of the issues above, or you would like further information, please don't hesitate to contact the SafeFish Codex coordinator; [Stephen.pahl@sa.gov.au](mailto:Stephen.pahl@sa.gov.au)

## SafeFish Website:

The 'Reports' section of the SafeFish website is currently being re-vamped to make it easier for users to navigate and search.

A new search engine is being developed that will allow users to search for reports using subject and species filters, as well as keywords. The page is also being redesigned so that it appears more like the FRDC report pages. Users will soon be taken to a new window when they click on a specific report, on this page there will be additional information about the report and an area that they can click on to download the file. By setting up the reports in this way, SafeFish is aiming to help users find reports more easily, and have the ability to copy the URL so that it can be sent to other users for direct navigation.

It is expected that the new search function will be running on the SafeFish website by May 2018.