

MAC

Working Group 3:

EU control and sanitary issues, consumer rules

BusinessEurope, Brussels

Friday, 17 May 2019, 9.30-12.00 CET

1. Welcome

starts: 9.30

2. Adoption of minutes of last meeting and today's agenda

3. Plastics → discussion of workshop ToRs

4. Ecolabels → discussion of workshop ToRs

5. Update on first meeting Consumer Info FG

- *Coffee break (20')*

6. Contaminants

7. AoBs (5-min update on caviar labelling)

ends: 12.00

Workshop Terms of Reference

Purpose: Bringing together MAC members **and other Advisory Councils** with experts and scientists to explore in both broader and greater detail the impact of plastics on fisheries and market actors

Outcomes:

- better understanding of issue
- show recognition
- Workshop report (tbd)

Workshop Terms of Reference

Schedule and Deadlines

- Terms of Reference to be adopted: May 2019
- Draft agenda and proposals for speakers to be developed by chair of WG 3 with Executive Secretary, on the basis of the agreed Terms of Reference by beginning/mid-June 2019
- Tentative date: October/November 2019 – to be decided today
- Meeting Venue: Brussels or Amsterdam or Rotterdam.
[if Brussels, to check with Commission on the possibility of holding the workshop in a room a suitable room (Borschette/Charlemagne)]
- Initial contact with speakers: mid- to late June 2019
- Report of the workshop to be published in its final version by end of 2019

Workshop Terms of Reference

Suggested issues to be discussed

- Presenting the state-of-the-art of research on plastics in terms of
- Environmental pollution,
- Human health aspects / Food safety issues
- Impact on marine organisms
- Showcasing best-practice examples from seafood industry actors on reducing, replacing or avoiding plastics
- Current alternatives and future projects to substitute the use of plastic in the seafood sector with less invasive materials or technologies (e.g. fishing gear)
- Packaging – recycling solutions (e.g. from processing, retail)

Workshop Terms of Reference

Purpose: Bringing together members of the MAC, institutions and external experts in an open & constructive dialogue about how voluntary sustainability claims and information on seafood products, including ecolabels and certification schemes, interact with the EU seafood market

Outcomes:

- Discussions in MAC showed broader issues of interest
- Preliminary Working Paper & Workshop report (tbd)

Workshop Terms of Reference

Schedule, Output and Deadlines

- Terms of Reference to be adopted: in May 2019 by Working Group 3
- Draft agenda to be developed by the chair of WG 3 with the help of the Executive Secretary, on the basis of the agreed Terms of Reference by the end of August 2019
- As the Workshop will take place in the first quarter 2020, on the basis of the draft agenda, a **Working Paper** will be produced by the WG 3 chair and the Executive Secretary which will go to approval to WG 3 at the September 2019 meeting
- Tentative date for the Workshop: first quarter of 2020 – to be decided by May 2019 during Working Group 3
- Meeting Venue: Brussels
- Initial contact with speakers before/during the summer break
- Report of the workshop to be published in its final version by end of 1 quarter 2020 depending on final workshop date

Suggested Workshop issues to be discussed

- Present and future state of voluntary sustainability information in the EU seafood market, including ecolabels and certification schemes
- How different ways of gathering, validating and communicating such sustainability information deliver different outcomes to consumers and business
- An historic account of the policy initiatives for an EU seafood ecolabel
- International best-practice cases and standardisation in ecolabelling
- International benchmarking efforts of seafood ecolabels
- Interaction between public resource management and ecolabelling
- Adding social sustainability (e.g. decent work) into environmental sustainability information
- The limited number of alternatives (question re. market access)
- Lack of clarity on the definition of sustainability
- The repartition of costs along the supply chain

Focus Group on Consumer Information

- 1st meeting on 16 April 2019
- Exchange of views and establish framework for draft text
- Aim of equal representation of MAC stakeholders
 - Producers from catching and aquaculture sector
 - processors, traders, suppliers & retailers;
 - NGOs
- Google Docs file for contributions

Structure of draft text:

1. **Introduction**
2. **Consumer Information:** studies, surveys and information available on consumer behaviour and view on information received
3. **Labels & clearer information:** what work and what would not work in terms of information provided
Recommendations & examples from other food products
4. **Competition aspects** of the difference in requirements in terms of information to consumer for fresh products and processed products
5. **Examples of good practices** (esp. new and future solutions (e.g. digital, etc.))
6. **Proposal**

Dioxins and related PCBs

- EFSA: expert Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain (CONTAM)
 - comprehensive review of the risks to human and animal health from these substances in food and feed
 - Study requested by the European Commission
- EFSA conclusion: dietary exposure to dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs is a health concern

Dioxins and related PCBs

- Panel chair's conclusion:
“The Panel has set a new tolerable weekly intake [TWI] for dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in food of 2 picograms per kilogram of body weight.”

→ new TWI = 7 times lower than previous level
- main contributors to average dietary exposure for most age groups in EU: **fish (in particular fatty fish)**, cheese and livestock meat

Dioxins and related PCBs

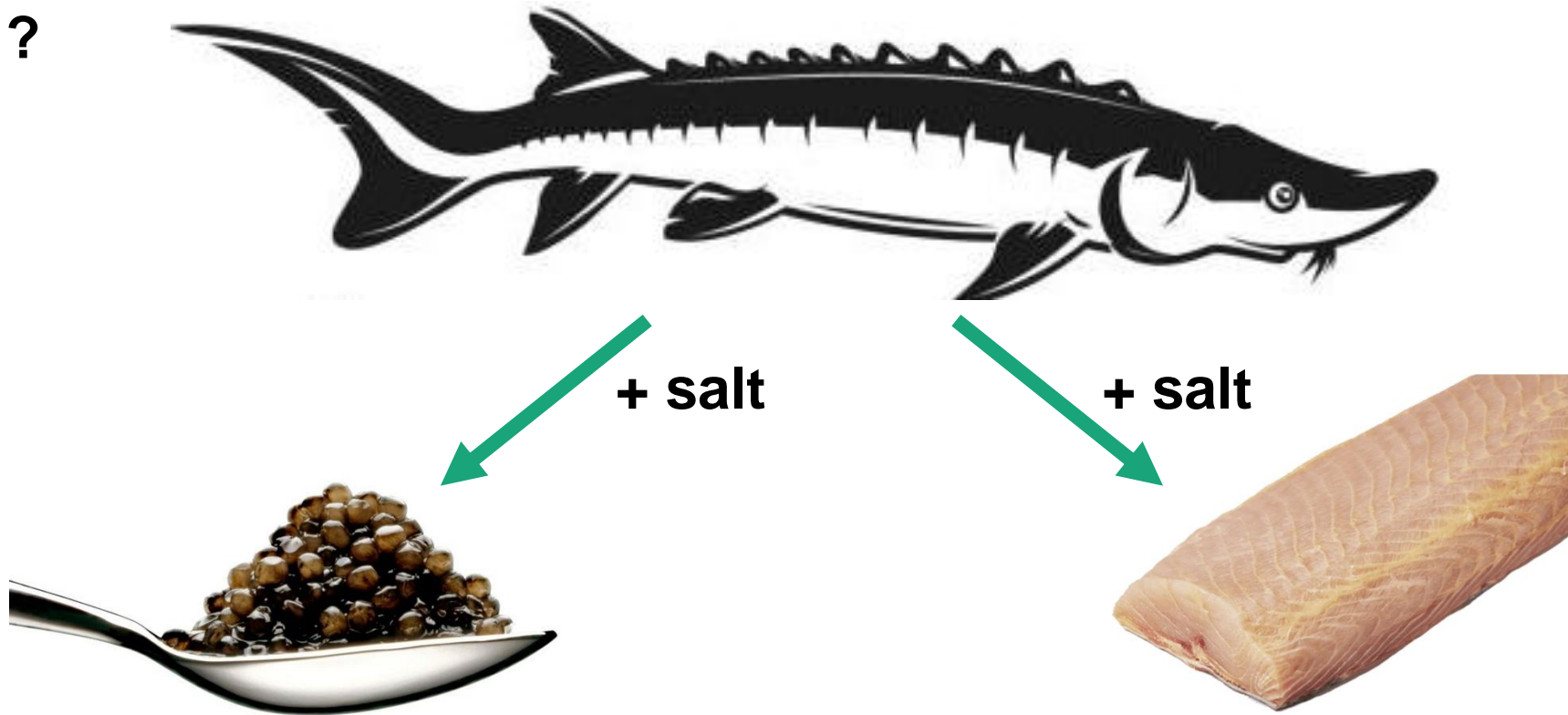
EFSA expert panel recommendations:

- “These **exceedances are a health concern**, but the toxicity of the most harmful dioxin-like PCB may be overestimated”
- “When calculating the toxicity of substances like these, we use internationally-agreed values known as ‘toxicity equivalency factors’ (TEFs).”
 - Panel would support review of TEFs for both dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs given new scientific data
 - If confirmed to be less toxic, this would reduce the concern for consumers

- Caviar labelling update (AAC)
 - Written email responses on endorsing AAC advice:
 - Yes: 4
 - No: 2
 - Partial endorsement: 2

Caviar labelling, the issue

Why ?



Prepared or preserved fish (Annex 1 h)

→ ~~CMO Art 35~~, only **CITES** labelling

Fish, dried, **salted** or in brine (Annex 1 b)

→ Art 35, **full labelling** !

ACTION POINTS from this meeting:

- Drafting of Agenda for Plastics Workshop
- Drafting of Agenda for Ecolabels Workshop
- Next FG Consumer Information: 2nd week of June 2019

OUTLOOK: next WG 3 meeting – September 2019

- Follow-up on plastics workshop developments
- Presentation of working paper on ecolabels workshop
- Introduction of Scorecard system