



*Wild, Natural & Sustainable®*

Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute  
Seafood Technical Committee Meeting  
April 2, 2013  
**Draft Minutes**  
9:11am start

Present:

Hart Schwarzenbach  
Joe Logan  
Joe Frazier  
Denby Lloyd (phone)  
Jeff Backlund  
Dan Block  
Bruce for Kenneth Lum (Ex Officio)

Not present:

Chip Treinen  
Kristen Ryan (Ex Officio)  
Al Burch

Quorum met

Also in attendance:

Linda Driscoll  
Pat Shanahan  
Dr. Nettleton  
Michael Cerne

Schwarzenbach (Chairman) welcomed Denby Lloyd as the newest member of the Seafood Technical committee.

I. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Logan made a correction to the minutes; Frazier and Treinen were present
- Rice said Lum's questions regarding nutrient database was unclear and suggested a change in the language

**A motion was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the previous Seafood Technical Committee meeting. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.**

II. OLD BUSINESS:

- A) Rice addressed the USDA Nutrient Database and Dr. Nettleton's role in development of nutrient database. Nettleton said the database has several new and revised nutrient values. The committee held a conference call with Pamela Pearson, who is point person at USDA; discussed a firm used to identify species for sampling. USDA is open to using the firm for help in clarification; e.g., "cod." ASMI's role is to assist in introducing new species for the database. The process for getting new products on the market is to introduce the agency

with opinion from an accredited institution regarding nutrient information. When new nutrient info is introduced on the website, previous entries are deleted. There is still 'valid' information from 1981 and 1985. Most of the database does not address differentiation, such as untreated v. treated and processing aid versus a food additive. USDA is open to considering other terms. Schwarzenbach asked about not differentiating between treated and untreated. Shanahan suggested lumping together or keeping the two categories, also said that USDA definition could be changed by ASMI introducing data guidelines. Lum asked about how chicken is defined compared to seafood. Shanahan said it is similar, but seafood is more complicated, specifically given the complexity and availability of samples available in stores. Schwarzenbach emphasized importance of accuracy in numbers and inconsistencies in numbers. Nettleton emphasized difficulty and complexity of sampling problem. USDA agreed to provide more information and some is already on site. They are open to revising/re-defining "treated" and "untreated."

Nettleton refers to data handout and discussed release numbers according to year. Sockeye salmon fat content data significantly decreased. It is unclear as to why these changes are so significantly different. This situation is the same for cod and pollock. There is a huge jump in sodium throughout the species. Shrimp had a huge jump in sodium, and 1/3 EPA and DHA. Shanahan asked if treated data is posted. Nettleton said this needs further investigation.

Rice asked Nettleton to clarify best practice for providing data. Nettleton said Virginia Tech has the best standardization. Logan asked if FDA uses this information for labels. Shanahan said yes; some magazines are removing certain foods due to high sodium content on labels.

Linda Driscoll pointed out that others use USDA for other purposes, e.g., recipes, etc., and third party applications. Nettleton said the database user interface is inconsistent.

**Jeff moved that ASMI identify funding and process for sampling a certain amount of species per year. Frazier seconded the motion. Rice said budget should include question/answer costs for ASMI testing and he will clarify with follow up email. m/s/p/u.**

**B) Mercury/Seafood - New Paradigm**

Rice addressed an email he previously sent and distributed ASMI marketing/educational materials for review. Lum asked who viewed the video, funded by NOAA, with a great deal of information regarding nutrition and its helpfulness in childhood development, particularly with regard to selenium. The committee discussed several possibilities regarding a useful process of distributing this information. Rice suggested putting link on website. Nettleton said the EPA is the biggest obstacle. Nettleton said it is problematic that seafood experts are not participating on their panels and the information disbursed can be erroneous, especially regarding Mercury. Rice suggested posting the NOAA video on their website.

**Logan moved to update ASMI brochures, do more outreach to Washington delegation, Alaska delegation and the Seafood Foundation, to push the NOAA video. Backlund seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**C) Recap of Chain of Custody for RFM**

O'Sullivan discussed and presented slides. Accreditation process was difficult, but CoC standard has been approved by Accreditation Body.

Schwarzenbach asked several questions regarding approach to accreditation and audits, multiple audits internally and externally, costs should be shared; O'Sullivan clarified.

Backlund asked about certifications and labels. Block asked about procedural audit questions and labeling warehouses. They have approximately 20 internal audits done by only two people.

Schwarzenbach asked about certification seals. Schwarzenbach said they are already certified, but asked if they can make that claim on their website without the seal. Rice also asked about not using seal or logo. O'Sullivan pointed out that even without using the seal, there would still be a certification process.

Block asked Rice if there have been requests to use the seal. Rice said yes.

Rice addressed calls he received regarding required information on application form, along with parts of the form that do not work. O'Sullivan and Gastel said that a new form has been developed but has not yet been released. Rice encouraged GT to get the new application distributed ASAP.

Backlund asked about creating a simple instructional guide. Frazier suggested a "Small Processors Assistance Guide." There was discussion on a traceability model and basic training document. Rice said that this has been addressed in some of the workshops, but not everyone has been in attendance.

**D) Certification Schemes Benchmarking**

Rice addressed RFM certification schemes and distributed some GSSI materials; also reported on some meetings he attended in Boston. GIZ of Germany is funding 50% of the GSSI. Some individuals from GFSI are involved with GSSI.

**E) Update on RFM situation**

Rice said European buyers are confused about trade and their suppliers, esp. at Brussels. He goes on to explain there will be a great deal of focus on hatcheries.

III. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Backlund addressed difficulties with China shipments and weight. Rice asked if there has been any product quarantined or rejected. Backlund said not so far, but will find out later this week. Rice asked that everyone forward any further information to ASMI. Block asked about FDA's list and Lum pointed out that a new list will be coming out next week with corrections and revisions. FDA is handling this on a case-by-case basis, as there are inconsistencies due to data entry errors generating several numbers. Databases have been merged up and merged down, which has affected the numbers. Deadline for corrected list is May 1. New list will appear on NOAA site and CNCA site (China's).

IV. **GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Rice distributed nomenclature list.

Logan addressed shipments going into Canada, regarding the welfare of the food. This is not a health and safety issue, but a certification issue. Final information date is Monday, April 8, 2013. Logan will continue to forward information as he receives it.

Schwarzenbach said that he found out that USDC has restructured quite a bit. Representatives have been assigned different roles.

Schwarzenbach talked about the word “fish” regarding allergies and the specific place on the label. Lum said it was in the BRC guidance on allergies.

**A motion was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

*Minutes:*

*Leslie*

*Temporarily Yours*