

Seafood Contaminants Meeting of July 26, 2007  
FDA Wiley Building, College Park, Maryland  
Executive Summary

**Meeting Scope**

AOAC held a high level meeting with representatives from FDA and the seafood industry to discuss a possible collaboration and working partnership between AOAC, FDA and the seafood industry to develop and validate rapid screening technologies, and possible confirmation technologies for monitoring contaminants in seafood.

**Attendees**

U.S. Food and Drug Administration attendees included the Director, Office of Food Safety; Senior Science Advisor, CFSAN; Deputy Director, Office of Seafood, CFSAN; Director, Office of Research, FDA-Center for Veterinary Medicine; Director of the Office of Surveillance and Compliance, FDA-CVM; and Deputy Director, Office of Research, FDA-CVM.

The seafood industry included representatives from Sysco Corporation, Beaver Street Fisheries, Inc., Ocean Duke, Central Seaway, Slade Gorton, King and Prince Seafood, Pacific Supreme Co., and Sodexho, USA.

Ron Johnson, bioMerieux, Inc., represented the AOAC membership from the test kit industry and Lisa Weddig represented the National Fisheries Institute. AOAC attendees included the Executive Director, E. James Bradford, and staff members Anita Mishra, and Krystyna McIver.

**Introduction**

After brief introductions by AOAC's Dr. Bradford, Krystyna McIver set the stage for the discussion by emphasizing that the key to building trust in the seafood being imported into the U.S. is to prevent its contamination at focal points in the seafood supply chain. One way is to develop and validate "reliable, affordable, fast, and realistic" screening technologies that would be used to screen products at many points in the supply chain. AOAC had created such a program 10 years ago for the milk industry, which had similar problems with antibiotic residues in milk, and is still being used today. A similar program is being proposed for the seafood industry.

**AOAC-FDA-Milk Industry Antibiotic Residue Program**

Michael Thomas, Deputy Director, Office of Research, CVM described how an AOAC-FDA-Milk Industry collaboration successfully resulted in a 10-fold decrease in the amount of antibiotic residues in milk.

AOAC initiated the program because of a problem that the milk industry had where some 20% of the milk samples tested were found positive for the presence of antibiotic residues. The program that AOAC initiated solved that problem. It involved the development, evaluation, and validation of screening technologies that tested for antibiotic residues in milk. Representatives from FDA, the milk industry, and test kit manufacturers agreed on the performance requirements for the screening technologies, and the assays submitted by the kit manufacturers were evaluated by an independent third party against those requirements. Assays that succeeded became AOAC certified test kits and were then accepted by FDA and adopted by the NCIMS (National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments). Today assays must undergo annual review to keep their certification mark to ensure no changes were made to the kits.

**Program Outline for the Seafood Industry**

The seafood industry has similar problems of potentially contaminated seafood entering the food supply and needs validated screening and confirmatory technologies to help solve the problem.

Anita Mishra proposed a program for the seafood industry whose mission would be to help prevent contaminated seafood from entering the food supply. The goal would be to develop a

science-based solution through collaboration between government and industry. It would involve evaluating and validating rapid, realistic, reliable, and affordable detection systems and confirmatory methodologies that meet or exceed the consensus performance requirements agreed to by the government, industry, and other relevant stakeholders worldwide for monitoring contaminants in seafood. To have a total quality system, Ms. Mishra also proposed the development of a proficiency testing program to assess user competence in the use of the assays. Finally, the program would include reaching consensus between government and industry on the statistical basis for sampling schemes and homogeneity of samples.

Initially, AOAC proposes to focus screening and confirmatory methodologies for antibiotic residues and start with a financially supported stakeholders meeting to develop the performance criteria for the methodologies. This will be followed by work on pesticide residues (e.g. fungicides), toxins, and *Vibrio vulnificus* and *parahaemolyticus*, species of fish identification, and allergens.

### **Outcome**

Both FDA and industry participants expressed a willingness to collaborate on a path forward.

### **Next Steps**

The next step will involve the financial commitment from the seafood industry to hold a stakeholders meeting detailed in the attached document (See Attached "Seafood Program Plan")

Kit manufacturers, who are AOAC Organizational Affiliates, will be invited to participate in the program. For information on the AOAC Organizational Affiliate Program, visit:

<http://www.aoac.org/membership/OrganizationalAffiliate.htm>