

Location: Web

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Declan Bolton, Kurt Buchmann, Arne Levsen, Simonetta Mattiucci, Ivona Mladineo, Maria João Santos
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Michaela Hempen
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 17th Working Group meeting held on 03 September 2024, in Parma

The [Draft Parasites fishery products Meeting-minutes 03-09-2024](#) were agreed by written procedure on 11 September 2024.

¹ As defined in Article 34 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

Draft opinion on the re-evaluation of certain aspects of the EFSA Scientific Opinion of April 2010⁴ on risk assessment of parasites in fishery products, based on new scientific data, Part 2: ToR 4 : Are there any particular species of wild caught fish originating from specific fishing grounds, where fish consumed in the EU/EFTA are caught, that are free of parasites of public health importance? ([EFSA-Q-2023-00172](#))

The WG addressed the comments from the BIOHAZ panel. Additional papers were identified for the occurrence of Anisakis in wild caught fish from marine fishing area. For area 58, references for anisakids were found. For inland waters, only Antarctica (area 8) was without references for the presence of zoonotic parasites in wild caught finfish. The WG revised the conclusions and recommendations. The WG agreed that the draft opinion can be presented to the BIOHAZ panel for thorough reading and possible adoption during its 173rd plenary meeting.

VI. Next meetings

No further meeting is planned.

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/1543>

Location: Web

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Declan Bolton, Kurt Buchmann, Arne Levsen, Simonetta Mattiucci, Ivona Mladineo, Maria João Santos
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Michaela Hempen, Martin Goudjihounde
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 16th Working Group meeting held on 15 July 2024, via web-conference

The [Draft Parasites fishery products Meeting-minutes 15-07-2024](#) were agreed by written procedure on 23 July 2024.

¹ As defined in Article 34 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

Draft opinion on the re-evaluation of certain aspects of the EFSA Scientific Opinion of April 2010⁴ on risk assessment of parasites in fishery products, based on new scientific data, Part 2: ToR 4 : Are there any particular species of wild caught fish originating from specific fishing grounds, where fish consumed in the EU/EFTA are caught, that are free of parasites of public health importance? ([EFSA-Q-2023-00172](#))

The WG members met in Parma and reviewed the different sections of the draft and discussed the outcomes of the data extraction. For both FAO marine and freshwater fishing areas, the WG validated the findings and provided suggestions on the presentation of the extracted data. While the data are available for all FAO marine fishing areas, there are data missing for some FAO freshwater areas, which requires additional searches. The draft opinion was reviewed and tasks were assigned to the WG members for the next meeting. The draft opinion will be submitted for the 1st reading during the 172nd plenary meeting of the BIOHAZ Panel.

VI. Next meetings

The next meeting is on 10th October 2024

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/1543>

Location: Web

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Declan Bolton, Kurt Buchmann, Arne Levsen, Simonetta Mattiucci, Ivona Mladineo, Maria João Santos
- Hearing Experts¹:
Pauline Kooh, Anne Thebault
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Michaela Hempen, Martin Goudjihounde
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 15th Working Group meeting held on 18 June 2024, via web-conference

The [Draft Parasites fishery products Meeting-minutes 18-06-2024.docx](#) were agreed by written procedure on 26 June 2024.

¹ As defined in Article 34 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

Draft opinion on the re-evaluation of certain aspects of the EFSA Scientific Opinion of April 2010⁴ on risk assessment of parasites in fishery products, based on new scientific data, Part 2: ToR 4 : Are there any particular species of wild caught fish originating from specific fishing grounds, where fish consumed in the EU/EFTA are caught, that are free of parasites of public health importance? ([EFSA-Q-2023-00172](#))

The PIF consortium (Hearing expert) presented their ongoing work and the preliminary results of the deliverables 13 and 14 regarding the literature screening and data extraction for Anisakids and other parasites in wild caught fish species. The WG appreciated the search results, asked questions and discussed with the hearing experts. Following that, the WG members discussed and agreed on a new assessment approach which consists of searching for target parasites specific to marine or freshwater environments and reporting the occurrence (Yes/No) instead of the prevalence. The draft opinion has been reviewed and new tasks have been assigned to the WG members for the next meeting.

VI. Next meetings

The next meetings is September, 3rd 2024

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/1543>

Location: Web

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Declan Bolton, Kurt Buchmann, Arne Levsen, Simonetta Mattiucci, Ivona Mladineo, Maria João Santos
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Beatriz Guerra, Martin Goudjihounde, Michaela Hempen
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 14th Working Group meeting held on 16 May 2024, in Parma

The [Draft Parasites fishery products Meeting-minutes 16-05-2024.docx](#) were agreed by written procedure on 24 May 2024.

¹ As defined in Article 34 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

Draft opinion on the re-evaluation of certain aspects of the EFSA Scientific Opinion of April 2010⁴ on risk assessment of parasites in fishery products, based on new scientific data, Part 2: ToR 4 : Are there any particular species of wild caught fish originating from specific fishing grounds, where fish consumed in the EU/EFTA are caught, that are free of parasites of public health importance? ([EFSA-Q-2023-00172](#))

The Chair of the WG updated the experts on the feedback received from the BIOHAZ Panel experts at the last Plenary (12-13 June). The WG members presented the outcomes of the pending tasks and discussed open points. The list of relevant finfish species (based on data for consumption, landings, imports and expert's knowledge) has been revised and validated as well as the list of zoonotic parasites species. The WG reviewed the draft opinion approved the report on the preliminary data on production, landings, and imports provided under the EFSA ISA contract EOI/EFSA/2022/01, and agreed on the next steps for the literature searches and screening to look for the occurrence parasites other than Anisakids, for which data extraction is already on-going. The WG members will work on new tasks for the next meeting.

VI. Next meetings

The next meetings in 2024 are planned as follows:

- 15 July 2024 (web)
- 3rd September 2024 from 8 am to 5 pm (Parma)
- 10th October 2024 from 9 am to 1 pm (Web)
- 19th November 2024 from 9 am to 1 pm (Web)

The opinion will be submitted for adoption on 4/5 December 2024.

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/1543>

Location: Web

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Declan Bolton, Kurt Buchmann, Arne Levsen, Simonetta Mattiucci, Ivona Mladineo, Maria João Santos
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Beatriz Guerra, Martin Goudjihounde, Michaela Hempen
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 13th Working Group meeting held on 16 April 2024, via web-conference

The [Draft Parasites fishery products Meeting-minutes 16-04-2024.docx](#) were agreed by written procedure on 23 April 2024.

¹ As defined in Article 34 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

Draft opinion on the re-evaluation of certain aspects of the EFSA Scientific Opinion of April 2010⁴ on risk assessment of parasites in fishery products, based on new scientific data, Part 2: ToR 4 : Are there any particular species of wild caught fish originating from specific fishing grounds, where fish consumed in the EU/EFTA are caught, that are free of parasites of public health importance? ([EFSA-Q-2023-00172](#))

The WG members presented the outcomes of the pending tasks and discussed about the approach to answer the TOR 4, the relevant parasites and fish species. Regarding the approach, the WG decided to search for the occurrence of relevant parasites in relevant fish species and then link this occurrence data to fishing grounds. A list of zoonotic parasites as well as a list of relevant fish species (based on data for consumption, landings, imports and RASFF notification) have been validated. Both lists will serve as the basis for the literature search. The WG members will work on new tasks for the next meeting.

VI. Next meetings

The next meetings in 2024 are planned as follows:

- 18th June 2024 from 9 am to 1 pm (Web)
- 15 July 2024 from 9 am to 1 pm(web)
- 3rd September 2024 from 8 am to 5 pm (Parma)
- 10th October 2024 from 9 am to 1 pm (Web)
- 19th November 2024 from 9 am to 1 pm (Web)

The deadline for this scientific opinion addressing term of reference 4 is by 31 December 2024.

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/1543>

Location: Web

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Declan Bolton, Kurt Buchmann, Arne Levsen, Simonetta Mattiucci, Ivona Mladineo, Maria João Santos
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Beatriz Guerra, Martin Goudjihounde, Michaela Hempen
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 12th Working Group meeting held on 1 March 2024, via web-conference

The [Draft Parasites fishery products minutes WG12 01 03 2024.docx](#) were agreed by written procedure on 7 March 2024.

¹ As defined in Article 34 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

Draft opinion on the re-evaluation of certain aspects of the EFSA Scientific Opinion of April 2010⁴ on risk assessment of parasites in fishery products, based on new scientific data, Part 2: ToR 4 : Are there any particular species of wild caught fish originating from specific fishing grounds, where fish consumed in the EU/EFTA are caught, that are free of parasites of public health importance? ([EFSA-Q-2023-00172](#))

The WG discussed on the approach to answer the TOR 4, in particular the list of fish species parasites of public health importance and the fishing grounds (marine, brackish, and fresh water). The approach chosen consists of screening literature on all fishing grounds for zoonotic parasites and then link it to the most consumed fish species in the EU. Regarding the fishing grounds, the WG decided to use the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) division for the EU waters, and FAO division for the rest of the world. The WG members will work to gather more information about the relevant fish species and parasites for the next meeting.

VI. Next meetings

The next meetings in 2024 are planned as follows:

- 16th May 2024 from 8 am to 5 pm (Parma)
- 18th June 2024 from 9 am to 1 pm (Web)
- 12 or 15 July 2024 (web) TBC
- 3rd September 2024 from 8 am to 5 pm (Parma)
- 10th October 2024 from 9 am to 1 pm (Web)
- 19th November 2024 from 9 am to 1 pm (Web)

The deadline for this scientific opinion addressing term of reference 4 is by 31 December 2024.

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/1543>

01 March 2024, Web

09:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 7 March 2024

Location: Web

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Declan Bolton, Kurt Buchmann, Mercedes Careche, Arne Levsen, Simonetta Mattiucci, Ivona Mladineo, Maria João Santos
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Beatriz Guerra, Martin Goudjihounde, Michaela Hempen, Winy Messens
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- a. **Draft opinion on the re-evaluation of certain aspects of the EFSA Scientific Opinion of April 2010⁴ on risk assessment of parasites in fishery products, based on new scientific data , Part 1: ToRs1-3 ([EFSA-Q-2023-00090](#), [EFSA-Q-2023-00172](#))**

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/1543>



EFSA staff gave a general update to the working group (WG) on the developments of the draft opinion since the WG11 meeting (15 February). The draft scientific opinion had been reviewed by specific BIOHAZ Panel members. The WG experts addressed their comments, solved open issues, and updated the concluding remarks, conclusions and recommendations for ToR1- Occurrence of parasites of public health importance in fishery products derived from most relevant finfish species in EU/EFTA, ToR2-Detection methods and ToR3, inactivation methods. The Part 1 scientific opinion will be presented for adoption at the 168 BIOHAZ Panel Plenary on 13-14 March 2024.

V. Any Other Business

No applicable.

VI. Next meeting

No additional meeting will be held for Part 1 opinion. The next meeting, for the Part 2 opinion will take place on **XX April.**

Location: Web

Attendees:

- Working Group Members (all online):
Declan Bolton, Kurt Buchmann, Mercedes Careche, Arne Levsen, Simonetta Mattiucci, Ivona Mladineo, Maria João Santos
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Alesandro Broglia (partially), Beatriz Guerra, Martin Goudjihounde, Michaela Hempen, Winy Messens
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- a. Draft opinion on the re-evaluation of certain aspects of the EFSA Scientific Opinion of April 2010⁴ on risk assessment of parasites in fishery products, based on new scientific data , Part 1: ToRs1-3 ([EFSA-Q-2023-00090](#), [EFSA-Q-2023-00172](#))**

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/1543>



EFSA staff gave a general update to the working group (WG) on the developments of the draft opinion since the WG10 meeting (11-12 December). The WG experts reviewed and discussed the concluding remarks, conclusions and recommendations for ToR1- Occurrence of parasites of public health importance in fishery products derived from most relevant finfish species in EU/EFTA, ToR2- Detection methods and ToR3, inactivation methods. Tasks were distributed. The Part 1 scientific opinion will be presented for adoption at the 168 BIOHAZ Panel Plenary on 13-14 March 2024.

V. Any Other Business

No applicable.

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held online on 1 March.

11-12 January 2024, Web

11.01, 09:00-16:00; 12.01, 9:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 16 January 2023

Location: Web

Attendees:

- Working Group Members (all online):
Declan Bolton, Kurt Buchmann, Mercedes Careche, Arne Levsen, Simonetta Mattiucci, Ivona Mladineo, Maria João Santos
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Beatriz Guerra, , Martin Goudjihounde, Michaela Hempen, Winy Messens (11.01.23), Eleonora Sarno (partially), Sofia Fusco (partially)
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received by Alessandro Broglia (EFSA).

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- a. Draft opinion on the re-evaluation of certain aspects of the EFSA Scientific Opinion of April 2010⁴ on risk assessment of parasites in fishery products, based on new scientific data , Part 1: ToRs1-3 ([EFSA-Q-2023-00090](#), [EFSA-Q-2023-00172](#))**

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/1543>



EFSA staff gave a general update to the working group (WG) on the developments of the draft opinion since the WG9 meeting (14-15 December). The WG experts reviewed and discussed in depth the new updates of ToR3- Inactivation methods other than freezing (in line with the discussions of ToR1 and ToR2 that took place in WG9 hold in December in Parma). After that, the main updates, conclusions, recommendations and, when applicable, uncertainties, for ToR1- Occurrence of parasites of public health importance in fishery products derived from most relevant finfish species in EU/EFTA and ToR2-Detection methods were discussed. Tasks were distributed. The Part 1 scientific opinion will be presented for thorough reading at the 167 BIOHAZ Panel Plenary on 24-25 January 2024.

V. Any Other Business

No applicable.

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held online on 15 February.

13-14 December 2023, Parma

13.12, 09:00-18:00; 14.12, 9:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 20 December 2023

Location: Parma

Attendees:

- Working Group Members (all online):
Declan Bolton, Kurt Buchmann, Arne Levsen, Simonetta Mattiucci, Ivona Mladineo, Maria João Santos
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Beatriz Guerra, Alessandro Broglia, Michaela Hempen (partially), Martin Goudjihounde
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received by Mercedes Careche.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- a. Draft opinion on the re-evaluation of certain aspects of the EFSA Scientific Opinion of April 2010⁴ on risk assessment of parasites in fishery products, based on new scientific data , Part 1: ToRs1-3 ([EFSA-Q-2023-00090](#), [EFSA-Q-2023-00172](#))**

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/1543>



EFSA staff gave a general update to the working group (WG) on the developments of the draft opinion since the WG8 meeting (14 November) and on the main comments received from the experts of the BIOHAZ panel during the discussions at the 166 Plenary (06-07 December) where the draft opinion was presented for first reading. The WG experts reviewed the new updates, addressed the comments included in: i) Introduction: data on production and consumption of fish species will be moved to the assessment; ii) ToR1- Occurrence of parasites of public health importance in fishery products derived from most relevant finfish species in EU/EFTA: the harmonization of occurrence data collected for the different fish species considered was done, conclusions were accordingly reviewed; iii) ToR2- Detection methods for those parasites: the newly restructured section was discussed, conclusions and recommendations were drafted. The review of ToR3- on Inactivation methods other than freezing (ToR3) will be discussed at the WG10 on 11-12 January. Tasks were distributed. The Part 1 scientific opinion will be presented for thorough reading at the 167 BIOHAZ Panel Plenary on 24-25 January 2024.

V. Any Other Business

No applicable.

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held online on 11-12 December.

Location: Web-conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members (all online):
Declan Bolton, Kurt Buchmann, Mercedes Careche, Arne Levsen, Simonetta Mattiucci, Ivona Mladineo, Maria João Santos
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Beatriz Guerra, Alessandro Broglia (partially), Winy Messens (partially), Eleonora Sarno (partially)
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- a. Draft opinion on the re-evaluation of certain aspects of the EFSA Scientific Opinion of April 2010⁴ on risk assessment of parasites in fishery products, based on new scientific data ([EFSA-Q-2023-00090](#), [EFSA-Q-2023-00172](#))**

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/1543>



EFSA staff gave a general update to the working group (WG) on the developments of the draft opinion since the WG7 meeting (05 October) and on the main comments received from the experts of the BIOHAZ panel during the discussions at the 165 Plenary (25-26 October) where the draft opinion was presented. Afterwards, the WG experts reviewed the new updates and addressed the comments included in the Introduction (need to shorten the section and reduce the number of figures on aquaculture production data, and the parasites of public health relevance), as well as the section addressing ToR1- Occurrence of parasites of public health importance in fishery products derived from most relevant finfish species in EU/EFTA, in order to harmonize the data collected for the different fish species considered, inclusion of new references identified through specific literature searches. The approach followed to re-structure the section on detection methods for those parasites (ToR2) was discussed, and some improvements were suggested. The updates on the section of the Inactivation methods other than freezing (ToR3) were also presented, and comments on this section were clarified with the section leader after the meeting. Tasks were distributed.

V. Any Other Business

No applicable.

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in Parma on 13-14 December.

Location: Web-conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members (all online):
Declan Bolton, Mercedes Careche, Arne Levsen, Simonetta Mattiucci, Ivona Mladineo, Maria João Santos
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Beatriz Guerra, Rubén Barcia Cruz, Alessandro Broglia, Winy Messens (partially)
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Kurt Buchmann.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- a. Draft opinion on the re-evaluation of certain aspects of the EFSA Scientific Opinion of April 2010⁴ on risk assessment of parasites in fishery products, based on new scientific data ([EFSA-Q-2023-00090](#), [EFSA-Q-2023-00172](#))**

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

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⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/1543>



EFSA staff gave a general update to the working group (WG) on the developments of the draft opinion since the WG6 meeting (22 September) and on the main comments received from the experts of the BIOHAZ panel during the discussions at the 164 Plenary (27-28 September) where the draft opinion was presented. Afterwards, the ToR1 section leader updated on the development of the ToR1- Occurrence of parasites of public health importance in fishery products derived from most relevant finfish species in EU/EFTA, specially considering the need of harmonization, and related parts of the introduction section (mainly with regards to the updated data from Eurostats on aquaculture, and the parasites of public health concern). The WG agreed to move all data on production of the different finfish species considered to the introduction, and to focus on the ToR1. Section on the data on occurrence recovered from the literature reviews, and the potential risks factors associated with the production of these finfish species that may influence this occurrence. The updates on the sections on detection methods for those parasites (ToR2) and Inactivation methods other than freezing (ToR3) were also presented and discussed. Tasks were distributed.

V. Any Other Business

No applicable.

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held by webconference on 13 November.

Location: Web-conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members (all online):
Declan Bolton, Kurt Buchmann, Mercedes Careche, Arne Levsen, Simonetta Mattiucci, Ivona Mladineo, Maria João Santos
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Beatriz Guerra, Rubén Barcia Cruz
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- a. Draft opinion on the re-evaluation of certain aspects of the EFSA Scientific Opinion of April 2010⁴ on risk assessment of parasites in fishery products, based on new scientific data (EFSA-Q-2023-00090, EFSA-Q-2023-00172)**

EFSA staff gave an overview of the developments of the work since the last WG4 and WG5 meetings and underlined the open questions to be addressed.

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² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

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Due to time constraints, the WG discussions concentrated mainly on the Introduction, Data and ToR2 (detection methods) sections.

A thorough revision of the introduction, mainly with regards to the data and figures included in the opinion on fish production and/or consumption in EU/EFTA (including Norway, Iceland), Faroe Islands and UK was done by the working group (WG). Open comments were closed and several clarifications and agreements (eg. figures/graphs to be left) were done. Additionally, the WG also clarified some issues related to the nomenclature of parasites.

The new updates of the Data section were presented, comments were solved.

For ToR2 (Diagnostic methods for the detection of parasites of public health importance in fishery products from such farmed fish species) the section leader presented the new updates, comments were addressed, and it was agreed to present in different tables those methods that are currently in use (widely adopted, validated) or not yet widely adopted (research, under development, most of them related to different OMICs). Further references will be added.

The thorough revision of ToR1, ToR3 will be done at the WG7 (05.10.2023 in Parma).

Tasks were distributed, deadline for further contributions was set on 29th September. Dates for upcoming meetings to address Part 2 (Tor4) in 2024 were discussed.

V. Any Other Business

No applicable.

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 5 October physically in EFSA premises.

Location: Web-conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members (all online):
Declan Bolton, Kurt Buchmann, Mercedes Careche, Arne Levsen, Simonetta Mattiucci, Ivona Mladineo, Maria João Santos
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Beatriz Guerra, Rubén Barcia Cruz, Alessandro Broglia
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- a. Draft opinion on the re-evaluation of certain aspects of the EFSA Scientific Opinion of April 2010⁴ on risk assessment of parasites in fishery products, based on new scientific data (EFSA-Q-2023-00090, EFSA-Q-2023-00172)**

In this meeting the section leaders updated on the development of the ToR2 - Diagnostic methods for the detection of parasites of public health importance in fishery products from such farmed fish species and ToR3 - Technical developments and new scientific data available in relation to killing

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³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/1543>



viable parasites of public health importance in fishery products, in particular treatments other than freezing. For ToR2, the WG discussed the information contained in the current draft scientific opinion, which mainly focus on the methods currently used (validated), and on how to include the data and information on other methods, not yet validated, but that could be further developed/used in the near future. For ToR3, an overview of the development of the section was given. New text and a long comprehensive table including information on physical and chemical treatments has been added. Some clarifications on information needed with regards to methods to measure infectivity need to be done.

Following the agenda, the WG next discussed about open issues for ToR1 (revision of the parasites table, structure of the section, need for additional data, use of public data sources with need for a license). They also discussed the information needed to be extracted, by EFSA contractors, from the literature available for the EFSA Pathogens in Food (PIF) data base that will also consider parasites in fishery products in the future.

Tasks were distributed, deadline for further contributions was set on 13/14th September.

V. Any Other Business

No applicable.

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 22nd of September as a web conference.

Location: Web-conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members (all online):
Declan Bolton, Kurt Buchmann, Mercedes Careche, Arne Levsen, Simonetta Mattiucci, Ivona Mladineo, Maria João Santos
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAZ Unit: Beatriz Guerra, Rubén Barcia Cruz, Eleonora Sarno, Alessandro Broglia (partially)
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- a. Draft opinion on the re-evaluation of certain aspects of the EFSA Scientific Opinion of April 2010⁴ on risk assessment of parasites in fishery products, based on new scientific data (EFSA-Q-2023-00090, EFSA-Q-2023-00172)**

EFSA updated the working group (WG) on the approval of the protocol by the BIOHAZ Panel at the 163 Plenary (13 July). The section leader updated on the development of the ToR1- Occurrence of parasites of public health importance in fishery products derived from most relevant finfish species

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³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

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in EU/EFTA - and the Introduction sections. The overlaps within both sections were discussed and the WG experts agreed on the distribution of the information between sections. Information on the different data sources and the respective data on fish production, consumption, RASFF notifications, EFSA Zoonoses database were presented. Data from United Kingdom after the Brexit and Faroe Islands will be considered due to their importance as European exporters of farmed finfish into the EU. The list of parasites considered of public health importance was slightly modified considering the available literature and expert knowledge for European aquaculture. The information already collected on the occurrence of those parasites for some of the farmed species under assessment (turbot, seabream, seabass, tuna) was discussed. The sections on detection methods for those parasites (ToR2) and Inactivation methods other than freezing (ToR3) will be discussed at the next meeting. Tasks were distributed, and 2024 meeting dates to address the Part 1 Opinion (ToR1-ToR3, deadline 31 March) were agreed.

V. Any Other Business

No applicable.

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 28th of August as a web conference.

Location: Web-conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members (all online):
Declan Bolton, Kurt Buchmann, Mercedes Careche, Arne Levsen, Simonetta Mattiucci, Ivona Mladineo, Maria João Santos
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Beatriz Guerra, Ernesto Liebana, Rubén Barcia Cruz, Winy Messens (partially), Alessandro Broglia (partially)
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- a. Draft opinion on the re-evaluation of certain aspects of the EFSA Scientific Opinion of April 2010⁴ on risk assessment of parasites in fishery products, based on new scientific data ([EFSA-Q-2023-00090](#), [EFSA-Q-2023-00172](#))

The Chair of the working group (WG) updated the WG members about the comments received during the presentation of the protocol at the latest BIOHAZ Panel Plenary (held in Parma on 7 June). A few adjustments on the interpretation of the terms of reference (ToRs) and wording of

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the assessment questions were done. It was agreed to submit the protocol for approval to the next BIOHAZ Panel plenary meeting (12-13 July). The section leaders/experts presented their contributions since the last meeting to specific sections of the draft opinion(s): 1) Introduction/additional information, 2) Occurrence of parasites of public health importance in fishery products derived from most relevant fish species in EU/EFTA (to cover ToR1), 3) detection methods for the detection of those parasites (ToR2), 3) Inactivation methods other than freezing (ToR3). The scientific topics raised for ToRs1-3 were discussed and next steps for the development of the opinion (e.g., updated list of parasites, further contributions with regards to the importance of the fish species and occurrence of parasites in those fish species, inclusion of definitions, presentation of diagnostic and inactivation methods, etc.) were agreed. Tasks were distributed, and pending dates for next meetings were agreed.

V. Any Other Business

No applicable.

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 17th of July online.

Location: Web-conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Declan Bolton (online), Kurt Buchmann (online), Mercedes Careche, Arne Levsen (online), Simonetta Mattiucci, Ivona Mladineo, Maria João Santos
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
See apologies
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Beatriz Guerra, Rubén Barcia Cruz, Winy Messens
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from EC.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- a. **Draft opinion on the re-evaluation of certain aspects of the EFSA Scientific Opinion of April 2010⁴ on risk assessment of parasites in fishery products, based on new scientific data (EFSA-Q-2023-00090, EFSA-Q-2023-00172)**

The experts of the working group (WG) continued with the discussions on the interpretation of the Terms of Reference and the development of the draft protocol. The experts agreed on the assessment questions to be answered, and the methods to be used to conduct the assessment. Small amendments will be done. Section leaders presented the outline of the specific sections of

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⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/1543>



the draft opinion(s): 1) Introduction/additional information, 2) Occurrence of parasites of public health importance in fishery products derived from most relevant fish species in EU/EFTA (to cover ToR1), 3) detection methods for the detection of those parasites (ToR2), 3) Inactivation methods other than freezing (ToR3), 4) wild caught fish and fishing grounds (ToR4). These outlines were discussed. Tasks were distributed, and dates for next meetings were agreed.

V. Any Other Business

No applicable.

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 21 June 2023 in Parma.

Location: Web-conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Declan Bolton, Kurt Buchmann, Mercedes Careche, Arne Levsen, Simonetta Mattiucci, Ivona Mladineo, Maria João Santos
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Paolo Caricato (partially), Patricia Herrero (partially)
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Beatriz Guerra, Rubén Barcia Cruz, Alessandro Broglia (partially), Ernesto Liébana Criado,
- Others:
Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process. Oral Declaration(s) of Interest were asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- a. Draft opinion on the re-evaluation of certain aspects of the EFSA Scientific Opinion of April 2010⁴ on risk assessment of parasites in fishery products, based on new scientific data ([EFSA-Q-2023-00090](#), [EFSA-Q-2023-00172](#))

EFSA provided an introductory presentation on: a) the remit and governance of EFSA and the way the scientific advice is produced; b) administrative and logistical matters, the use of Microsoft Teams as the platform for communications and repository of data and documents during the

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lifespan of the mandate; c) uncertainty and protocol development guidance documents to be followed and d) the work plan, meetings planned and technical and scientific support provided by EFSA. EFSA staff in charge of the EFSA 2010 scientific opinion⁴, presented the main findings, conclusions and recommendations of the document. The chair of the WG presented the background and Terms of Reference (ToR) of the EC mandate from the BIOHAZ Panel to the WG and clarifications of the ToRs were done. Main findings of the ParaFishControl project were presented to the WG by a member involved in the project. The first steps for protocol development: the problem formulation (step 1) and the planning of the methods to conduct the assessment (step 2) were initiated using a brainstorming session. Leaders and contributors to the different parts of the risk assessment were assigned and tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts. A timeline for Plenary and WG meetings in 2023 was presented.

V. Any Other Business

No applicable.

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 24 May 2023 in Parma.
