

13 and 15 April 2026

09:00-13:00 and 14:00-18:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 27 April 2026

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Sara Bover-Cid, Miriam Garcia, Laurent Guillier, Lisbeth Hansen, Trond Lovdal, Fernando Perez-Rodriguez
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing²:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not Applicable
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Winy Messens, Natisha Vatwani

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 Independence³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁴, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting and the preparatory meetings listed under agenda item "Preparatory meeting/s with Risk Assessment". No conflicts of interest related to the issues discussed in these meetings have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of these meetings.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting held on 9-10 March 2026, via web-conference

The minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 18 March 2026.

¹ As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups":
<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf>

² As defined in the "EFSA's Catalogue of support initiatives during the life cycle of applications for regulated products":
<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-6472>

³ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

⁴ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf



V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft opinion on the microbiological status of fishery products following the stiffening process with focus on smoked salmon (EFSA-Q-2026-00032)

The WG chair provided feedback of the 184th BIOHAZ Plenary meeting (12 March 2026) during which he updated the Panel about the outcome of the first WG meeting. He presented the translation of the terms of reference of the mandate into assessment questions (AQs). No changes were proposed. The planning of the methods to conduct the assessment was presented and comments were collected. The protocol will be presented for possible approval at the next plenary meeting. The WG members further discussed the methods that will be applied for conducting the assessment. The proposed approach and first considerations of available evidence to answer the various AQs were presented by the leaders and contributors to the different parts of the risk assessment. Tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts.

VI. Next meeting

The next WG meeting will be held on 29 May 2026 from 9:00 to 17:00 via web-conference.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

1st Working Group meeting on fish storage predictive modelling

9-10 March 2026

13:30-17:30 and 09:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 18 March 2026



Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
Sara Bover-Cid, Miriam Garcia, Laurent Guillier, Lisbeth Hansen, Trond Lovdal, Fernando Perez-Rodriguez
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- Applicants participating in a technical hearing²:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: Patricia Herrero Sancho, Paolo Caricato (DG SANTE)
- EFSA:
BIOHAW Unit: Winy Messens, Natisha Vatwani

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Sara Bover-Cid (from 12:30 – 13:00 on the 2nd day).

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 Independence³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁴, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting and the preparatory meetings listed under agenda item "Preparatory meeting/s with Risk Assessment". No conflicts of interest related to the issues discussed in these meetings have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Working Group members at the beginning of these meetings.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

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³ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

⁴ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf



The chair presented the background and Terms of Reference (ToR) of the mandate. Clarifications to the mandate were discussed in the presence of EC colleagues. The ToRs were translated into draft assessment questions (AQs). A brainstorming took place on the planning of the methods to conduct the assessment. Further, 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 lifespan of the mandate; c) the work plan, meetings planned and technical and scientific support provided by EFSA; d) uncertainty and protocol development guidance documents to be followed. WG members were assigned to the different parts of the risk assessment and tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts. A timeline for plenary and WG meetings was presented.

V. Next meeting

The next WG meeting will be held on 13 April 2026 from 09:00 to 13:00 and 15 April 2026 from 14:00 to 18:00 via webconference.
