Vitenskapskomiteen for mat og miljø
Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment

Cecilie Rolstad Denby
Director General for the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment (VKM)
Member to the EFSA Advisory Forum from 1 August 2019

Risk assessment activities in the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment

EFSA Advisory Forum meeting, Helsinki 18-19 September, 2019.

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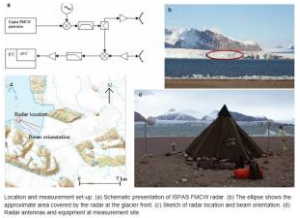
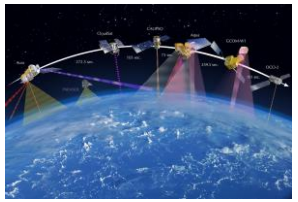
Cecilies background





Professor, dr. scient Geomatics
Norwegian University of Life Sciences

- Earth Observation/Remote Sensing
- Climate/Polar regions

Head of Dept./interim Dean at Faculty of Science and technology

- Agriculture
  - Applied robotics
  - Data Science

Organisation of VKM

- Ministry of Health and Care Services (HOD)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food
- Ministry of Climate and Environment
- Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries

- Secretariate – 23 full time staff members

- Scienitific committe
  - 100 national/international academics in 11 scientific panels
  - Scientific evaluation - members appointed by HOD for 4 years
  - Declaration of conflict of interest/hability

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VKM's scientific panels 2019 - 2022

Alien Organisms and trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

This Panel is responsible for assessments of risks to Norwegian biodiversity from the import and keeping/release of alien organisms. The Panel also evaluates applications for import/export and listing proposals under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Animal feed

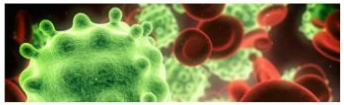
This Panel carries out risk assessments concerning feed for terrestrial and aquatic animals, including production methods, raw materials, additives, infectious substances, and genetically modified organisms. The assessments also include how feed affects animal health.

Animal health and welfare

This Panel carries out risk assessments on animal health and welfare, with particular focus on food-producing animals, including both farmed and wild fish.

Plant Health

This Panel conducts risk assessments concerned with issues on plant pests and organisms that can harm plants, plant products, and biological diversity.



Biological Hazards

This Panel conducts risk assessments related to microbiological food hygiene, contamination of food by microorganisms pathogenic to humans, and transmissible spongiform encephalopathies.

Contaminants

This Panel is responsible for risk assessments on environmental contaminants and other pollutants, process-related chemicals, natural toxins, and residues of veterinary and human pharmaceutical substances in food.

Food Additive

This Panel is responsible for assessing issues on safety in the use of food additives, flavourings, processing aids, materials in contact with food and drinking water, chemicals used for water treatment, and residues from biocides. In addition, this Panel is responsible for safety evaluations of cosmetics.

Plant Protection Products

This Panel carries out risk assessments of chemical and biological plant protection products, and their residues in food. Norway has an exemption from EU regulations in this area, which means that all plant protection products have to be nationally approved by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority.

Genetically Modified Organisms

This Panel carries out health and environmental risk assessments of genetically modified organisms, and processed food and feed. Additionally, the Panel carries out risk assessments in connection with national applications for use or introduction of GMOs.

Microbial Ecology

This panel's working areas include environmental and/or health risk assessments regarding the release/import of microorganisms and the use of medicinal products containing or consisting of genetically modified organisms, as well as microbiological products for diverse uses.

Nutrition, Dietetic Products, Novel Food and Allergy

This Panel is responsible for risk assessments concerning the issues of human nutrition, dietetic products, food supplements, novel foods, and food allergies, including food fortification, and food supplements and health claims.

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Interdiciplinary risk assessments on food and environment

- requested
- self-tasking, own initiative

Mattilsynet

Norwegian Food Safety Authority

NORWEGIAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

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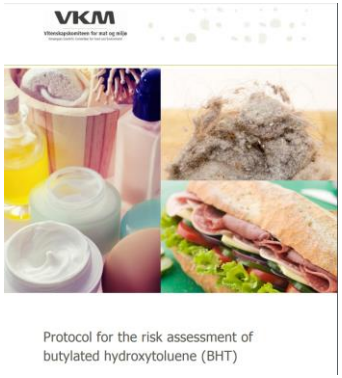
VKM's project protocols with public consultations

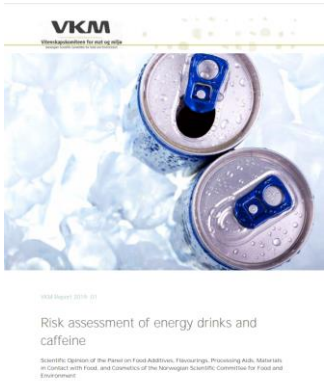
Published protocols

- Risk assessment of butylated hydroxytoluene
- Risk-benefit assessment of sunscreen
- Risk assessment of energy drinks and caffeine

Protocols under preparation

- Risk assessment of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in food in Norway
- Total exposure assessment of caffeine
- Risk-benefit assessment of fish





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VKM's ongoing risk assessments

	Ordered	Published
Alien Organisms and trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Will assess the risk from an increase of pink salmon in Norway	11.12.2018	15.12.2019
Animal feed Risk assessment of potentially toxic metals in soil and fertiliser products - fate and effects in the food chain and the environment	30.10.2017	30.11.2019
Nutrition, Dietetic Products, Novel Food and Allergy Iodine fortification of table salt	09.04.2018	13.11.2019
Scientific Steering Committee Microplastics - occurrence and implications for food safety and environment in Norway	24.11.2017	24.10.2019
Plant Health Flea beetles -- risk to plant health	13.12.2018	18.10.2019
Alien Organisms and trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Assessing the impact imported cleaner fish can have on the environment	18.11.2018	27.09.2019
Food Additives Risk assessment of the synthetic antioxidant butylhydroxytoluene (BHT)	01.09.2017	20.09.2019
Food Additives Risk-benefit assessment of use of sunscreen	27.02.2018	24.03.2019
Food Additives Risk assessment of «other substances»	05.05.2015	
Alien Organisms and trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Evaluation of the scientific basis for regulation of trade in endangered wildlife		
Contaminants Risk assessment of dioxins and dl-PCBs in food	15.02.2019	

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Risk assessment of BHT, E321 butylated hydroxytoluene

Background: BHT

- is characterised by extensive use and multiple exposure sources and routes
- helps preserve and stabilise the flavour, colour, freshness and nutritive value of foods and animal feed products
- improve the stability of pharmaceuticals, fat-soluble vitamins, personal care products, biomaterials, petroleum products, synthetic rubbers and plastics, etc.
- To our knowledge, risk assessments including exposure estimates for BHT from several sources and exposure pathways have not been performed

Aim: Assess whether the BHT exposure constitute a health risk to the Norwegian adult population

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Exposure estimation

Questions addressed in the exposure assessment:

- What are the exposure levels and sources of BHT from **foods**?
- What are the exposure levels and sources of BHT from **personal care products**?
- What are the exposure levels and sources of BHT from **indoor dust**?
- What is the total internal exposure to BHT?

- The Norwegian survey Norkost 3 was used to address food consumption
- The Norwegian survey EuroMix was used to address both food consumption and cosmetic use (frequency)

Exposure assessment:

- «realistic» exposure scenario: data considered the most realistic for the Norwegian exposure were used
- «high» exposure scenario: more conservative choices were used

Euromix – a biomonitoring study

The BTH study is uploaded in the EuroMix toolbox (Monte Carlo Risk Assessment) and food consumption is expressed as food categories used by EFSA (FoodEx2)

The study includes:

- 2 x 24h detailed weighed diaries on food consumption and personal care product use
- Biological material (24 hour urine, blood, white bood cells .....)

The study makes it possible to address:

- combined exposure to chemicals
- exposure from different sources and exposure routes
- covariance between oral and dermal exposure

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VKM 2020: National Scientific Authority (SA) for CITES

Article IX of the CITES Convention requires each Party to designate:

- one or more Management Authorities competent to grant permits or certificates on behalf of that Party
- one or more Scientific Authorities to advise the Management Authorities

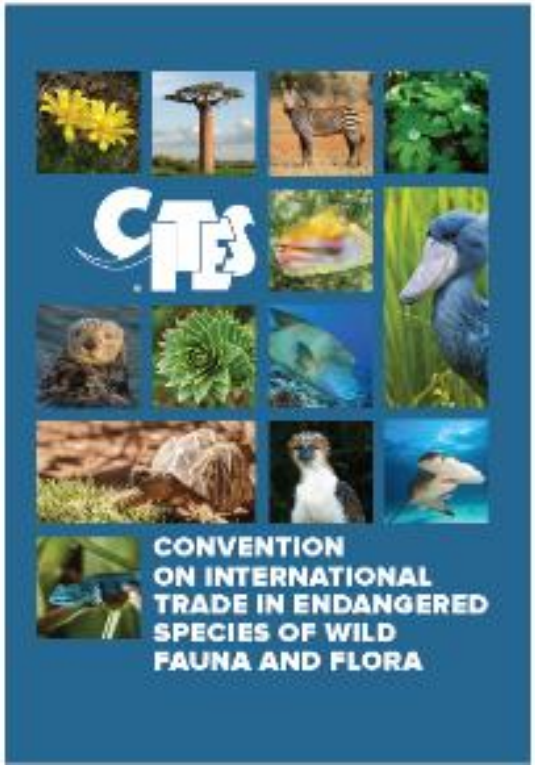
VKM as CITES Scientific Authority

Main task:

To assess whether export/import of specimens of CITES-species would be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild

Other tasks:

- Participate in CITES meetings and workshops
- Assessment of proposed amendments to the CITES Appendices
- Participate in CITES working groups



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Vitenskapskomiteen for mat og miljø

Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment

VKM Report 2019: 10

A CITES risk assessment for the common minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*)

Opinion of the Panel on Alien organisms and trade in endangered species (CITES) of the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment

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Vitenskapskomiteen for mat og miljø

Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment

VKM Report 2019: 11

Assessment of species listing proposals for CITES CoP18

Scientific opinion of the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment

Risk assessment from an increase of pink salmon in Norway

On request from Norwegain food safety authority and Norwegian Environment agency

Key message:

What will happen to the wild salmon populations and the river ecosystems if pink salmon is established in Norwegian rivers? What is the risk associated with new pathogens introduced by pink salmon, and how can this affect aquaculture?

VKM`s panel on Alien Organisms and Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) will be responsible for the risk assessment. The report will be published in December 2019.

Vitenskapskomiteen for mat og miljø
Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment

VKM looks forward to continued good cooperation with the EFSA members!

Thank you for the attention!

Kiitos! 

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