

# Consultation request for the determination of the novel food status Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283

## Consultation request to determine the novel food status of holothuriae (sea cucumbers)

**Recipient Member State :** France, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty, General Directorate of Food

**Date :** 08/02/2024

### **Name and description of the novel food:**

The request concerns the sea cucumbers *Holothuria Fuscogilva*, *Holothuria whitmaiei* and *Holothuria scabra* which are marine animals classified in the Echinoderm family.

*Holothuria fuscogilva*, *Holothuria whitmaiei* and *Holothuria scabra* are invertebrate, soft, oblong shaped animals, radially symmetrical, with a circle of tentacles around the mouth. They are intended to be used :

- As food (whole sea cucumber) and
- In capsule-shaped food supplements, the whole animal being freeze-dried and reduced in powder.

**Novel food status:** Novel

### **Reason statements:**

The French Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty, General Directorate of Food has examined the request for determination of novel food status of *Holothuria fuscogilva*, *Holothuria whitmaiei* and *Holothuria scabra* intended to be used as food and in capsule-shaped food supplements after being freeze-dried and reduced in powder.

The competent authorities of the EU Member States and the European Commission were consulted.

The status of sea cucumbers was already discussed in 2015. From the data provided in the dossier and information from EU Member States, there is no consistent evidence that this product was used for human consumption to a significant degree within the EU before May 15, 1997.

**Novel food category:** Article 3(2)(a)(v)

**Conclusion:** Novel food