

CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS
17th Session
Panama City, Panama
15-19 April 2024

European Union Comments on

Agenda item 9:

Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Ciguatera Poisoning
(CX/CF 24/17/9 and reply to CL 2024/6-CF)

Mixed Competence
European Union Vote

In response to the request for comments, the European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to make the following comments.

I. Specific comments

Paragraph 2:

- The EUMS propose to include in the first sentence the word “known”: “The benthic dinoflagellate genus *Gambierdiscus* is the main **known** producer of CTXs”. Rationale: For clarity.
- The EUMS propose to include the sentence “..., though they can also be detected in the water column.” After the parentheses (e.g., turf algae, macroalgae, and coral). Rationale: adding information.
- The EUMS propose to replace the following sentence: “Recent reports have identified these organisms in more temperate regions as well, including Korea, Japan, northern territories of New Zealand, southern Australia, the northern Gulf of Mexico, and the Mediterranean Sea, as sea temperatures rise as a result of climate change.” by “ Recent reports have identified these organisms in temperate regions as well, including **for example** Korea, Japan, northern territories of New Zealand, southern Australia, the northern Gulf of Mexico, northeast Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea, ~~as sea temperatures rise as a result of climate change.~~ **Their populations in temperate regions would benefit from the warming trends in sea temperatures as a result of climate change.**” Rationale: Recent reports do not imply they are new in the area.
- The EUMS propose to include the following information in brackets after the words “...three major classes that corresponded with their global location”: **(Pacific P-CTXs, Caribbean C-CTXs and Indian Ocean I-CTXs)**. Rationale: Adding information.

Paragraph 3:

- The EUMS propose to include “**microalgae**” after the word “reef environments”. Rationale: Adding information.

Paragraph 6:

- The EUMS propose to include the words “**in temperate regions**” after the sentence “...but global trade of fish and an increase in ocean temperatures due to climate change have caused CP illnesses to be observed among a wider range of non-CTX endemic countries”. Rationale: For clarity.

Paragraph 7:

- The EUMS propose to include the following sentence “**However, there are no internationally agreed harmonized protocols to determine CTXs yet**” after the sentence “The analytical methods currently available for detection of CTXs are diverse and take advantage of different properties of the toxins (e.g., structure, cytotoxicity) and encompass both screening and quantitative measurements.” Rationale: Adding information.
- The EUMS propose to replace the following sentence “The algae grow slowly and can be difficult to culture, and a large quantity of ciguatoxic fish material is required for the isolation of toxins, which means production of standards is limited.” by “**The responsible dinoflagellates grow slowly in laboratory conditions and can be difficult to maintain and to scale up their biomass;** a large quantity of ciguatoxic fish material is required for the isolation of toxins, which means production of standards is limited.” Rationale: Adding information.

Paragraph 14:

- The EUMS propose to add the following wording in the brackets after “(due to metabolism”): **and behavior, for instance large migratory species that can feed in other areas**”). Rationale: Adding information.

Paragraph 17:

- The EUMS propose to include the following information after the bullet point of EU/Rapid Alerts System for Food and Feed:
 - **Government of Canary Islands:**
https://www.gobiernodecanarias.org/pesca/temas/Control_calidad_productos/ciguatera.html

Rationale: Adding information.

Paragraph 21:

- The EUMS propose to replace the following bullet point:
 - “• Canary Islands (Spain) has a protocol to be carried out in authorized points of first sale, by which certain species must be checked above a certain weight.”

by

“• Canary Islands (Spain) has a protocol to be carried out in authorized points of first sale, by which **specimens belonging to a list of species, equal or above a certain maximum weight, must be checked to discard CTX activity in flesh tissue prior to their commercialization.**”

Rationale: Adding information.

Annex I:

- The EUMS propose to include the following organism to the list. Rationale: Adding information:

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	LOCATION WHERE FOUND
<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>	Kingfish	Canary Islands (Spain)

- The EUMS propose to include in the box “location where found” for “*Epinephelus marginatus*”: **Canary Island (Spain)**. Rationale: Adding information.
- The EUMS propose to include the following organism to the list. Rationale: Adding information:

<i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i>	Bluefish	Canary Islands (Spain)
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- The EUMS propose to replace the information for the organism *Seriola fasciata*, in the box “location where found” “Selvagens Islands (Madeira Archipelago), West Africa (Canary Islands)” by “Selvagens Islands (Madeira Archipelago), **Canary Islands (Spain)**”. Rationale; correction.
- The EUMS propose to include “**Canary Islands (Spain)**” in the box “location where found” for the organism *Seriola spp.* Rationale: Adding information.