



## Revaluation of the risk assessment of parasites in farmed fish products

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## 1. Context and explanatory statement

The European Food Safety Agency (EFSA)'s Scientific Opinion on risk assessment of parasites in fishery products [BIOHAZ. EFSA Journal 2010; 8(4):1543] and the European Commission Regulation (CE/ 1276/ 2011) consider the risk of transmission of parasites to man as negligible. However, for farmed fish species other than Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), important data on this aspect were still to be produced. The EFSA's opinion concludes that there is not sufficient monitoring available so that farmed fish other than salmon are considered as not representing a health hazard in relation to the presence of parasites. The EFSA has set up criteria to be able to consider other fishery products from aquaculture. These criteria for farmed fish are introduced in the previously mentioned EU regulation's revised Annex III, Section VIII, Chapter III of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, Part D at point 3. (d).

Recently, the study conducted by the EU Horizon2020-funded ParaFishControl project included surveys that did not evidence any zoonotic helminths in major EU farmed fish species (specifically: gilthead sea bream, European sea bass, turbot, Atlantic salmon, rainbow trout and common carp). This finding allows us to conclude that the overall risk of parasite infection in the selected farmed fish species, similarly to the Atlantic salmon, is negligible.

## 2. Recommendation

Based on these results, the AAC requests to the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) to mandate the EFSA for a re-evaluation of the risk-assessment to confirm whether the risk of transmission of parasites to man by EU farmed fish is considered significant or negligible. If the EFSA considers the risk to be negligible, the current EU legislation should subsequently evolve to extend the exemption from the freezing treatment of products intended to be consumed raw or undercooked to all EU farmed fish products, according to the conditions fixed by the Commission Regulation (CE) N. 1276/2011.



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