IFL Project Report 07-06



Apríl 2006

Nordic information and communication network regarding safety of seafood products 2nd Workshop

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Skýrsluágrip Rannsóknastofnunar fiskiðnaðarins



Icelandic Fisheries Laboratories Report Summary

Titill / Title	Nordic information a safety of seafood proc	nd communication ne lucts - 2 nd workshop	twork regarding		
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Skýrsla Rf/IFL report	07-06	Útgáfudagur / Date:	April 2006		
Verknr. / project no.	1629				
Styrktaraðilar / funding:	NSK (strategi-reserveren), NEF(Nordisk Embedsmans komité for fiskeripolitik) and IFL				
Ágrip á íslensku:	Þessi skýrsla greinir frá verkefni um myndun sjávarafurða, sem haldin Í verkefninu hefur (www.seafoodnet.info) ‡ krækjum sem innihalda óæskileg efni og næringa sér um að viðhalda henn og á uppfærslu þeirra.	upplýsinga- og tengsl n var í Kaupmannahöfn 2 verið þróuð sameign þar sem safnað er samar upplýsingar um efnainni arefni. Ísland hefur séð u	anets varðandi öryggi 1 apríl 2006. hleg Norræn vefsíða 1 á einn stað viðeigandi ihald sjávarafurða, bæði 11 að þróa vefsíðuna og		
	 Helstu umræðuefnin á fundinum voru: Hvernig heimsasíðan hafði verið kynnt í hverju landi fyrir sig og hver viðbrögðin hafa verið. Hvernig mætti betrumbæta heimasíðuna t.d gera hana einfaldari og skýrari. Hvernig væri best að kynna heimasíðuna út á við. Hvernig hægt er að halda heimasíðunni lifandi eftir að verkefninu lýkur. Skilgreina hvar þekkingu vantar á rannsóknarniðurstöðum. Þátttakendur voru sérfræðingar frá Noregi, Finnlandi, Danmörku, 				
	Svíþjóð, Færeyjum og Íslandi. Fundurinn var styrkur af NSK og NEF sjóðum Norrænu ráðherranefndarinnar.				
Lykilorð á íslensku:	Sjávarafurðir, upplýsir	ngar,tengslanet, óæskil	eg efni, næringarefni		

Skýrsluágrip Rannsóknastofnunar fiskiðnaðarins

Icelandic Fisheries Laboratories Report Summary

Summary in English:	This report contains the outcome of the 2nd workshop in a Nordic project called "Nordic information and communication network regarding safety of seafood products and utilisation of the resources from the sea." The workshop was held in Copenhagen, Denmark on April 21 st 2006.				
	In the project a website (<u>www.seafoodnet.info</u>) has been established with links to relevant information regarding the chemical composition of seafood, the safety of seafood products etc. and a common platform for the network has thus been built. Iceland is responsible for updating the website but each country is responsible for its own documents as this ensures that the information is updated and this will help to keep the website alive after this project ends.				
	The main topics discussed at the meeting were:				
	 ✓ Promotion of the project in each country and the response. ✓ Evaluation of the progress of the project and the website (www.seafoodnet.info). How can it be improved, what information should be added? ✓ How should the website be promoted further? ✓ Future of the website. How can we ensure exchange of information between partners presently and after the project ends? ✓ Identification of research gaps. 				
	The participants were scientists from Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Faroe Islands and Iceland.				
	The workshop was funded by NEF and NSK				
English keywords:	Seafood, information, communication network, web platform, contaminants, nutrition				

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report describes the outcome of the second workshop held in the project "Nordic information and communication network regarding safety of seafood products and utilisation of the resources from the sea" funded by NSK and NEF. It contains the results of the discussions that took place at the workshop and the overheads presented during the workshop.

The objective of this project is to establish a Nordic information and communication network regarding safety of seafood products and utilization of the resources from the sea. The network is a co-operative project with representatives from Denmark, Finland, Faros Islands, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The project will build the base for coordination of information and the reporting of chemical substances i.e. nutrients and undesirable substances in seafood. The project will also be the cornerstone for further networking and innovative transnational research with the participation of scientists in the Nordic countries and EU.

The project started formally in November 2004 and the first project meeting was held in Reykjavik, Iceland on the 4-5th of April 2005. The second project meeting was held in Copenhagen, Denmark on the 21st of April 2006. Those meetings were attended by experts in the field of research and analysis of undesirable substances in fish and nutrition of fish from Faroe Island, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland

From May 2005 we have been developing the website for the Nordic Network <u>www.</u> <u>seafoodnet.info</u>. This work was carried out in accordance with a decision made during the first workshop that was held in this project in April 2005. The website is the result of the joint effort of all partners of the project. All partners contributed to the development of the website by sending information/material defined by the coordinator (IFL). IFL was responsible for finding a suitable name and design a logo for the website and for designing the layout of the website and compiling the material sent by other partners in a suitable fashion. IFL is also responsible for updating the website. The website contains links to relevant information regarding the chemical composition of seafood, the safety of seafood products etc and thus builds a common platform for the network (see picture below). Each country is responsible for its own documents since this will ensure that the information is kept updated and will help to keep the website alive after this project ends. This website is one of the main deliverables from this project.



This website was formally opened November 29th, by the Minister of fisheries in Iceland. A promotional meeting was held in Iceland where the project and the homepage were introduced. Around 15 persons came to the meeting from different sectors. The Seafoodnet website was very well received and the introduction of the homepage to the potential users made a lot of difference.

Promotional material in 6 Nordic languages (i.e. Icelandic, Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, Faroese and Finish) has been prepared. The promotional material is a so-called "A4 one-pager" which contains information about the Nordic project and the Seafoodnet website. One side of this one pager is in one of six different Nordic languages and the other side is in English. Representatives from each country participating in the project have been responsible for the dissemination of information about the project in their home country and they have translated the promotional material into their own language. The idea is that this A4 one-pager should be use as promotional material in the Nordic countries and send to a specific target groups that includes potential users of the Seafoodnet homepage.

The Nordic project and the Seafoodnet website has been promoted in the following manner in the Nordic countries;

- Promotional meeting in Iceland on the 29th of November 2005
- Promotional material "one pager" in six Nordic languages as well as in English
- Link to <u>www. seafoodnet.info</u> is available on the homepages of all Nordic institutes participating in the project as well as on homepages for other Nordic Institutes with similar emphasis i.e. environment, fish industry, food and health.
- Information published in an Electronic newsletter sent out by the Icelandic Fisheries Laboratories to approximately 400 recipients
- Information published in the Faroese newspaper "Sosialurin" and "Dimmalætting" and the Swedish magazine "Narturvetaren"

The objective of the second project meeting was:

- To evaluate the progress of the project (Nordic information and communication network regarding safety of seafood products utilization of the resources from the sea). What can be improved? What information is missing? Etc.
- To improve the flow of information to the fish industry, exporters and consumers
- To identify research gaps, with focus on seafood safety, especially for traditional Nordic seafood products

2. WORK PROGRAMME AND PARTICIPANTS

Friday April 21st 2006

Welcome

9:00 Introduction of the development of the project to this date (IFL)

9:45 Each Country presents how the project has been promoted (5-10 min per country) Denmark Faro Island Finland

Sweden Norway

10:30 Coffee

10:45 Evaluation of the progess of the project

For example; *Seafoodnet website*, *Promotional material, workshops, dialoge between partners* What can be improved? What information should be added? User friendly?

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Identification of research gaps

14:00 Future of the Website

How should we promote the website further?

How to reach the stakeholders; the fish industry & exporters, researchers, consumers, government, dieticians and cooks?

How to ensure exchange of information between partners presently and after the project ends (des 2006)?

16:00 Coffee and closing of the workshop

Participants

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3. PRESENTATIONS

Appendix 1 contains copies of overheads from the presentations presented at this workshop. The participants were asked to present how the project has been promoted in their home country.

4. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

4.1 Promotion of the project

Each participating country has promoted the project in different ways, see overheads in appendix 1. All have links to the Seafoodnet website through their homepages as well as on homepages for other Nordic Institutes with similar emphasis i.e. environment, fish industry, food and health. Nevertheless, there has to this date been limited response from users to the host of the website and the promotional material prepared in the different languages.

4.2 Evaluation of the progress of the project

The participants discussed how the website could be improved e.g. what information should be added etc. The main conclusions were that the structure/layout of the website needs to be developed further and the dialog between partners needs to be improved.

The following list describes in more detail suggestions for improvements:

- 1 News should be the front of seafoodnet.info => Relevant news on institues homepage has to be forwared to host for seafoodnet.info
- 1 Write guideline with explanatory text or overview on how to use the website and how to find particular information about different subjects e.g. EU limits, Regulations, safety etc. There are links to certain reports on the website however the user is made aware of that there are >100 of reports on the institues homepagers
- 1 Sort the website by dividing links into catagories:
 - ✓ Nutrients & contaminants with links to nordic databases
 - \checkmark Have an index to fact sheet with links to different sources
 - ✓ Facts about fish
 - ✓ Regulations & guidlines EU
 - ✓ Institutes
 - ✓ Reports and publications
 - ✓ Recepies i.e. Links to websites

- 1 Regular updates
 - ✓ Improve dialog between partners by sending a reminder with an e-mail to contact person for each country, suggested contact frequency every 3 months
 - \checkmark Information should be sent regularly to the hosting country
- 1 More information needed?
 - ✓ Activities in Nordic Countries i.e. Monitoring programs & ongoing projects (use flag to identify the different countries). This needs to be updated regulary at lesat once a year.

4.3 Identification of research gaps

The participants agreed that there are many research gaps that need to be filled but there is lack of funding.

Example of research gaps:

- ✓ Analytical data for nutrients. There is a little knowledge available about the variations of the nutrients depending on e.g. the season or size of the fish species.
- ✓ Fluoride substances
- ✓ Inorganic As in mussels
- ✓ New pesticides e.g. toxaphen, endosulfine

4.4 Future of the Seafoodnet website.

How should the website be promoted further?

- ✓ NMR website news bullitin about the project
- ✓ SEAFOODplus website news bullitin about the project
- ✓ Add questionary for users to the website where users are asked where they found the information
- \checkmark Define the key words for search on internet

How to reach the stakeholders?

✓ The users of seafood composition data need information quickly. The users (Fish industry, Government, Consumers, Researchers, Dieticians and cooks)

How to ensure that the website will be active after the project ends

- ✓ A single contact point on Internet is needed for seafood data. Consequently there is a need for this website.
- \checkmark One institute should host the web site and update it regularly.
- ✓ Each country selects one contact person who is responsible for responding to incoming requests from the website host.

- ✓ Participants should report to the responsible institute when relevant news or data are available.
- \checkmark The work for participants should be minimal.
- ✓ The responsible host institute should contact all the Nordic countries 4 times per year.

4.5 Conclusion

The main conclusion of the discussions was that the website needs to be structured in a different way to make it more user friendly for all stakeholders. This update should be finished September 2006. The participant agreed that it is important to keep the Seafoodnet website alive after the project ends. IFL is willing to continue to host the website and continue to update it in the future with regular inputs and effort from all partners.

Appendix 1.

Overheads from the presentations presented at the workshop

PRESENTATION FROM ICELAND











PRESENTATION FROM ICELAND













PRESENTATION FROM ICELAND















PRESENTATION FROM THE FAROE ISLANDS

How the project has been promoted in the Faroe Islands

- Advertized twice in two newspapers
- Dimmalætting (23.12.05 and 04.01.06)
- www.dimma.fo
- Sosialurin (23.12.05 and 04.01.06)
- www.sosialurin.fo

How the project has been promoted in the Faroe Islands

- On three homepages:
- Food, Environmental and Veterinary Agency, <u>www.hfs.fo</u>
- Fishery Research, www.fvg.fo
- The Fishery Laboratory of the Faroes, www.frs.fo

Kansanterveyslaitos • Folkhalsoinstitutet **PKTE** Promotion of Seafoodnet.info in Finland

- 1. Promotional material has been translated to Finnish http://www.ktt.fi/portal/suomi/osastot/ymparistoterveys/,still available in news section
- 2. Seafoodnet has been introduced to a permanent working group of experts on dioxin issues

Promotion of Seafoodnet.info in Finland

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3.	Links to Seafoodnet have been created:
	In KTL's (National Public Health Institute) website:
	http://www.ktl.fi/portal/suomi/osiot/tietoa_terveydesta/ravitsemus/www_linkit/
	In RKTL's (Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute) website:
	http://www.rktl.fi/kala/elinymparistot/haitalliset_aineet_kaloissa/
	In EELA's (National Veterinary and Food Research Institute) website:
	http://www.eela.fi/
	In SYKE's (Finnish Environment institute) website:
	http://www.ymparisto.fi/default.asp?contentid=162351&lan=Fl
	In EVI's (National Food Agency) website:
	http://www.elintarvikevirasto.fi, go to "linkkejä" and roll down to "Muu Eurooppa"
	In NMKL's website:
	http://www.nmkl.org/db

PRESENTATION FROM SWEDEN



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PRESENTATION FROM NORWAY

	NIFES	::::·	N
History of monitoring undesirable sub in Norway	stances in seafood		ROGRAMME FOR THE DATABASE IN 2005 (nutrients will be
 NIFES surveillance programs started in 19 increased focus on food safety in the mark 		inclu	uded from 2005 – number of samples analysed for nutrients giver parenthesis)
increased focus on food safety in the man	.et5	•	Tusk - Norwegian Sea - N=25 (10)
NIFES surveillance can be divided into two	categories:	•	Ling - Norwegian Sea - N=25 (10)
 required according to EU legislation and con the Norwegian Food Safety Authority (e.g. 		•	Hors Mackerel - Norwegian Sea - N=25 (10)
 Initialised by NIFES and the Ministry in ord of undesirables in seafood from the Norwed 	er to monitor the levels	•	North Sea herring – N=125/25 (pooled samples) (10)
(open seas)		•	Norwegian Spring Spawning herring - Norwegian Sea - N=125/23 (10)
 Both monitoring categories are vital in NIF understanding what specific levels of under 		•	Atlantic halibut - Norwegian Sea/North Sea - N=30
human health – seafood safety		•	Atlantic farmed salmon – N=50 (10)
			Totally samples analysed 205 (90)

PI	ROGRAMME FOR THE DATABASE IN 2006 (nutrients are also included – number of samples given in parenthesis)	Inor	Undesirable substances determined ganic compounds:
•	Atlantic cod (fillet, roe and liver): Barents Sea (50/10); Norwegian Sea (25/5); North Sea (25/5)	•	Mg, Al, Ca, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Cu, Zn, As, Se, Sr, Mo, Ag, Cd, Sn, Ba, Hg, Pb, U (specier of As, Hg og Sn)
•	Saithe (fillet and liver):Barents Sea (25/10); Norwegian Sea (25/10); North	Org	anic compounds:
	Sea (25/10)	•	HCB, HCH, DDT, PCBs (28, 52, 101, 105, 118, 138, 153, 156, 180).
	American plaice: Barents Sea (25/10) Polar cod: Barents Sea (25/10)		180), dioxins og dioxin like PCBs, polybrominated flame retardants, different pesticides (i.e. endosulphane, toxaphene, chlordan etc)
•	North Sea herring (125/25/10) (pooled samples)		
•	Norwegian Spring Spawning herring - Norwegian Sea (125/25/10)	•	Radioactive isotope:
•	Mackerel: North Sea (125/25/10)	•	¹³⁷ Cesium, ⁹⁹ technetium
•	Atlantic farmed salmon (100)		
400	fillet samples, 175 liver samples and 75 roe samples (130 samples for nutrients)		

NIFES Nutrients included:

Total protein and energy

•

- Dry matter, ash, Na, K, Ca, Mg, Fe, Co, Zn, Cu, Mn, F, I, P, Se
- Total fat, fatty acids, and the fat soluble vitamins A, E, D, K and cholesterol
- Water soluble vitamins as thiamine, riboflavin, pyridoxine, B₁₂, pantothenic acid, folic acid











