Total mercury and methylmercury in fish

Request for data on total mercury and methylmercury in tuna, alfonsino, kingfish/amberjack, marlin, shark, dogfish and swordfish.

Issued 27/06/2017

Background

The 11th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF11), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from April 3—April 7, 2017, agreed to start new work on the establishment of maximum levels (MLs) for fish (tuna, alfonsino, kingfish/amberjack, marlin, shark, dogfish and swordfish) and to establish an Electronic Working Group (EWG) led by the Netherlands together with New Zealand and Canada to prepare proposals for MLs and associated sampling plans for aforesaid fish species for consideration by CCCF12 in 2018.

We are requesting submission of new data on total mercury and methylmercury in fish covering approximately the last 11 years. Data should be submitted by the September 30, 2017, to allow time for data analysis and drafting and review of the paper. The call for data can also be viewed online at http://www.who.int/foodsafety/en/.

Date for submission

The submission of data is requested before 30 September 2017

This deadline applies to all data to be submitted.

WHO will be compiling data for the EWG. All new data must be submitted to WHO through the GEMS database, which is now easily accessible on the web. To access the GEMS database, go to http://www.who.int/foodsafety/areas_work/chemical-risks/gems-food/en/. Please read the "GEMS/Food Database Manual" before attempting to submit data to GEMS. To submit data, you will need an account, and instructions on creating an account are found on page 2 of the manual. For technical questions about submitting data to GEMS, please contact Philippe Verger at WHO (vergerp@who.int and cc astrid.bulder@rivm.nl).

Note that data already submitted to the GEMS Food Database do not need to be re-submitted.

When submitting data to the GEMS/Food database for this work, please:

- Provide complete information on the LOQ and LOD of analytical methods.
- Provide information in the "Local Food Identifier" or "Remark/references" fields of the database to allow more specific identification of samples, e.g., Is a food fresh or processed, including canned, preserved, salted, etc.?
- Provide information on "State of Food Analyzed," i.e., cooked or raw, and on “portion analysed” i.e. fat content, dry weight, as is or as consumed.
- Provide the full latin name of the fish species analysed
- Provide information whether it is domestically caught fish or imported fish