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Dr.Ke/as

Combined Nomenclature for discussion in WG's of MAC

Dear Sandra,

Thank you for your e-mail dtd. 9.10.2017. Below please see the information:

Alaska Pollock

An increasing number of scientific societies acknowledged the scientific classification of Alaska pollock as a member of genus *Gadus*.

In the World Register of Marine Species (WORMS) and in the FishBase *Gadus chalcogrammus* is now the accepted and official scientific name of Alaska Pollock. The former scientific name *Theragra chalcogramma* will be phased out.

FAO has not made any change in their ASFIS-list. FAO are reported to have a relatively conservative attitude towards doing such changes.

The new scientific classification and its including as a member of the genus *Gadus* will put Alaska Pollock in direct affinity with Cod (*Gadus morhua*, *Gadus macrocephalus* and *Gadus ogac*).

Nobody in the market is interested to call in EU markets an "Alaska Pollock" a "Cod"!

To achieve coherence with scientific classification and the harmonized system in the World Customs organization, food operators wish to have a clear use of the scientific name in the framework of custom clearance. Food operators in the EU wish therefore that World Customs organization is changing the existing harmonized system HS-nomenclature in a way that only the scientific name *Theragra chalcogramma* is one to one replaced by the name *Gadus chalcogrammus* without any changes of existing HS-numbers and descriptions of the HS-numbers.

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Redfish

Another example where scientific classification has been changed is *Sebastes marinus*, which is now being called *Sebastes norvegicus*. For this species, the harmonized system nomenclature has to be changed in the same way as proposed for Alaska Pollock.

Aim

The aim of the proposed changes of HS-nomenclature should be to align scientific classification with trade information system to achieve a coherent traceability of internationally traded fish species in the entire supply chain and to avoid misleading consumer with respect to Alaska Pollock, which in no way can be regarded as a “traditional” cod in EU markets.

Finally, the stakeholder of Market Advisory Council want to know the position with respect to Alaska Pollock and Redfish of the EU-Commission in this ongoing work of the World Customs Organization Sub-Committee who review the harmonized system in the future.

With best regards

Dr. M. Keller

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