

A new platform for seafood research

The consumption of seafood is increasing, but still below recommended levels in most countries. Some of the reason is lack of products the consumers would like to buy, and some of the reason is mixed messages in the press about risks and benefits of seafood in the diet. There is thus an urgent need to clarify the diet requirements and eliminate the perceived risks connected to seafood consumption. Further, it is necessary to continue the technological development for producing seafood of a high edible quality.

The Integrated Project SEAFOODplus running in the period 2004-08 delivered several breakthrough research results in the areas of seafood and health, consumers and seafood, seafood safety, seafood quality and product development and aquaculture. Because of the excellent results produced, SEAFOODplus has become a brand label for highly qualified seafood research managed in a professional way. Therefore, it has been decided to take this development a step further by launching the SEAFOODplus research platform.

Vision:

- To be the preferred research platform for major stakeholders in all aspects of the seafood science, industry, policy-makers and financing bodies in Europe, particularly addressing research supported by the EU;
- To work for continued and effective integration of the best research environments in academia and industry with the aim of having European seafood research to be recognised as the world leaders in seafood science.

Mission:

- To begin, stimulate and encourage international integrated



multidisciplinary seafood research covering the whole production chain from aquaculture and fisheries to consumers' health and wellbeing;

- To influence the European research agenda with focus on seafood research related to human health, consumers' perception and wellbeing, process and product quality, product development, safety and aquaculture as a source for seafood;
- To bring forward and promote the project ideas from the scientific community via the channels of the European Commission in addition to existing technology platforms.

The Strategic Research Agenda

The SEAFOODplus research platform is approaching the whole value chain from the live fish, through processing, until the product is consumed. Furthermore, the platform addresses nutrition and health questions, with the objective of preventing negative effects of lifestyle diseases. The initial topics adopted by the SEAFOODplus research platform are the following: quality in a sustainable whole chain approach; process and product development in its widest context; consumer science covering the understanding of consumers' attitudes toward seafood; health aspects and how seafood in the diet impacts major lifestyle diseases and cognitive abilities; lipids, proteins, amino acids, trace elements with metabolic effects; safety with emphasis

Clarifying the diet requirements and eliminating the perceived risks connected to seafood...

on microbiology, but other aspects also included; and aquaculture for future supplies of seafood.

Platform management

The platform is managed by a governing council, which decides the strategic research agenda and considers the adoption of new members to the platform.

What can the platform do for its members?

The members can benefit from the workshops and conferences arranged, be assisted in finding partners, and be alerted about new calls targeting their specific interests. In the long term, members will benefit from lobbying the platform makes towards funding bodies, specifically the EU.

Who can become members?

Any entity from a research organisation or a university covering the research area described in the mission can become a member of the SEAFOODplus research platform. The SEAFOODplus research platform welcomes members from all over the world, but the primary target for obtaining funds will be the EU.

For further information, please contact the SEAFOODplus Secretariat Manager Jette Donovan Jensen, jej@aqua.dtu.dk.



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SEAFOODplus research platform
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