

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES

DHA RICH MICROALGAL OIL

Issue

The Committee is asked to consider the response from the applicant regarding questions raised at the last meeting and the text of a draft initial opinion on this application for approval of a DHA rich oil from the microalgae *Schizochytrium sp* as a novel food ingredient.

Background

1. The Committee initially considered this application, submitted by DSM, at the last meeting (ACNFP/112/4) and highlighted a number of concerns regarding the production process employed, the strain used and whether the applicant had considered the possibility of cyanobacteria contamination (**Annex 1**)
2. The applicant's response to these questions is attached at **Annex 2**. The applicant has provided additional information in relation to the production process, in particular the water-based oil extraction and purification process. The applicant has also presented information indicating that it is extremely unlikely that cyanobacterial contamination will occur. Similar evidence was accepted by the Committee in 2011 when it evaluated another DHA-rich oil from a related source. The applicant has also confirmed that the production strain has been characterised and has an official American Type Culture Collection number.

Committee Action Required

3. The Committee is asked whether the response from the applicant is sufficient to complete the risk assessment. If so, the Committee is asked to consider the text of the draft opinion (attached at **Annex 3**) and suggest any amendments. If not, the Committee is asked to indicate what additional information would be required.
4. Once finalised, the draft opinion will be published via the Agency's web-site for the usual 10-day public consultation. After the Committee has considered any public comments and its opinion is finalised, the final opinion will be forwarded to the European Commission.

Secretariat
November 2013

Annex attached:

- Annex 1 Letter to applicant seeking additional information
- Annex 2 Applicant's response (PROTECT – COMMERCIAL)
- Annex 3 Draft Initial Opinion (PROTECT – DRAFT)

