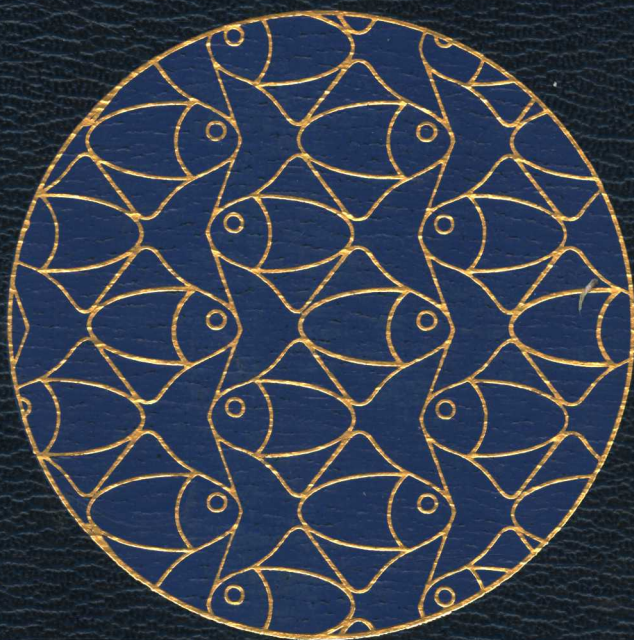


# Fish Inspection, Quality Control, and HACCP

A GLOBAL FOCUS



*Edited by*

**ROY E. MARTIN  
ROBERT L. COLLETTE  
JOSEPH W. SLAVIN**

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# **Fish Inspection, Quality Control, and HACCP**

**A GLOBAL FOCUS**

*Proceedings of the Conference held May 19-24, 1996  
Arlington, Virginia, USA*

*Edited by*

**ROY E. MARTIN  
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## Foreword

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It is a distinct honor and privilege to welcome you to Arlington, VA, and this 2nd International Conference on Fish Inspection and Quality Control.

This is a very historic event. We have here assembled, the largest group of world government and industry experts dedicated to quality control and seafood inspection.

The 1st International Conference on fish inspection and quality control was held 27 years ago in 1969. At that conference there were 173 people from 43 countries in attendance. At this conference, I am pleased to report that we have over 400 people from 62 countries in attendance.

We have seen many changes in our fisheries in the past 26 years.

- Some fishery Resources have become fully exploited.
- Seafoods have moved from a staple to a very desired food.
- Aquaculture is the new wave for future production.
- Some underutilized resources now are over-utilized resources.
- And quality control and inspection has taken on a more systematic approach under the guise of HACCP, QMP, and ISO 9,000.

Now we have to make sure that these new systems are truly equivalent, do not serve as artificial trade barriers, protect the public health and provide a reasonable environment for business.

The conference will focus on the application of these new inspection systems and will develop recommendations for the attention of world organizations, i.e., FAO and WHO, individual governments and industry.

---

Welcome Remarks, Roy Martin, Vice President, Science and Technology, National Fisheries Institute

I would like to express our appreciation to the co-sponsors:

- Food and Agriculture organization of the U.N.
- Canadian Department of Fisheries and oceans
- Fisheries Council of Canada
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration
- U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service
- The National Fisheries Institute

As the world gets smaller through electronic communications, our ability to provide information becomes easier, faster, and more dependable. The governments and industry must rise to this challenge and use these tools in providing the safest possible high quality seafood to an ever demanding public; we can do no less.

It is my great pleasure to address the Conference on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Mr. Jacques Diouf. It was 27 years ago when FAO, within its programme of global technical conferences on fisheries matters, organized the First International Conference on Fish Inspection and Quality Control in Halifax, Canada. The Conference was the result of the need to find a common language in fish inspection and quality control. Different inspection systems or lack of them, different sampling and analytical methods, as well as limited knowledge of fish spoilage indicators, created significant barriers in developing international trade in fish and fishery products. Problems were also encountered in a common understanding between fish inspectors, fish technologists and scientists.

The Conference achieved its purpose and brought together for the first time on a global scale fish inspectors, scientists and fish technologists. Although the Conference did not result in new discoveries or agreements, it revealed the real and urgent need for international co-operation in this area. It called for the establishment of fish inspection in countries where it still did not exist and strongly requested the international harmonization of nomenclature and analytical methods, including inspection systems. The urgent need for providing assistance, particularly training for developing countries, was also expressed. The participants in the Conference agreed that there would be a need to meet again on the subject within the next four or five years.

Today, 27 years later, many, if not most, of the issues from the Halifax Conference surprisingly still remain valid, although obviously in a different context. Very dynamic developments in international trade, new international trade agreements and new approaches in food safety inspection - moving from traditional end product inspection to modern, preventive methods - are the main reasons that encouraged the National Fisheries Institute, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Food and Drug Administration and other sponsors to organize this Conference and, although someone may feel that this may be a bit late, particularly in

---

Welcome Remarks, Dr. Z.S. Karnicki, Officer-in-Charge, Fishery Industries Division  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy

view of the Halifax Conference's recommendation to meet five years later, in fact the timing seems to be just right, taking into account the legal and scientific developments that occurred in this area during the last few years. Twenty-seven years ago we were discussing what to do - today, through the signing of the World Trade Agreements, we have committed ourselves to do it.

FAO and in particular the Fishery Industries Division and the Nutrition Division, responsible for Codex Alimentarius matters, despite the difficulties facing the UN system, will do their best to fulfill their mandate and provide information, advice and training in all matters related to the implementation of international agreements regarding food inspection and quality assurance contributing to safe food for all.

I congratulate the National Fisheries Institute for their initiative in organizing this event and I wish you "a very successful Conference."

## Acknowledgements

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