

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES

DHA RICH ALGAL OIL

Issue

Members are invited to consider a draft opinion on the application for authorisation of additional uses of DHA rich algal oil from the microalgae *Schizochytrium* sp. before it is issued for public comment.

Background

1. At the January 2008 meeting, Members considered an application from Martek Biosciences Corporation for the approval of docosahexaenoic acid (DHA)-rich algal oil as a novel food ingredient and had a number of comments and concerns regarding the lack of a defined upper limit, consumption of dietary supplements, the ratio of DHA:EPA and possible adverse effects of high-level consumption of DHA.
2. At the April 2008 meeting the Committee was generally content with the applicant's response, and indicated that any concerns related to the consumption of significantly raised levels of long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids in the diet, due to increased fortification of existing foods was a generic issue.
3. The Secretariat has drafted an opinion incorporating the points raised by the Committee regarding this application. (**Annex**).

Committee Action Required

4. The Committee is asked to consider the text of the draft opinion attached as **Annex 1** and to identify any amendments that should be made.
5. 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 comments that are received and its opinion is finalised, the final opinion will be forwarded to the Commission.

**Secretariat
May 2008**

Annex attached

Draft opinion (Restricted)