

Seafood Safety & Quality PDG

Names of Attendees: Evelyn Watts (Chairperson), John Boyce (Vice Chairperson), Andrea Cerrato, Andrew Appiah Darkwah, Annie Iniya John Benedict Ashok, Bonolo Mathekga, Eric Moorman, Evan Chaney, Jacqueline Woods, Jens H. Kjaer, John LoPorto, Joshua Owade, Katheryn Parraga-Escalante, Kristin Butler, Lisa Weddig, Md Ashrafudoulla, Meijun Zhu, Michael Ciaramella, Neha Shantanu Wavare, Padmini Ramachandran, Philip Bwalya, Salina Parveen, Sanaz Mirtalebi, Sarah Smith-Simpson, Sharmeen Khan, Susan Teegardin, Suresh Pillai, Tom Sidebottom, Tori Stivers, Vashti Campbell, Xiaoyan Zhang.

Total Number of Attendees: 30.

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 27, 2025, 1:00 P.M.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Andrea Cerrato.

Evelyn Watts started the meeting by welcoming everyone, new and old Members, and thanking them for attending the Seafood Safety and Quality PDG. Evelyn introduced herself as the current PDG Chair, and John Boyce was introduced as the incoming PDG Vice Chair. IAFP Executive Board announcements were given by Wendy White. John Boyce reviewed the Antitrust guidelines for everyone, followed by a brief introduction from every attendee.

Old Business: Evelyn Watts requested a motion to approve the 2024 meeting minutes.

Katheryn Párraga made a motion; Jacqueline seconded the motion. The motion was accepted with all votes in favor and none against. Evelyn Watts reviewed the recommendations given to the Executive Board during the previous year: 1) Recommend to the Board notify/update PDG Chairperson/s with the date and time of webinars when sponsored by the respective PDG.

Board Response: The staff will make certain that the PDG Chair is notified. 2) Recommended to the Board to update the app to possibly have a Zoom feature. *Board Response:* Currently, this is not available. A total of 5 proposals were submitted, but only one was accepted. Evelyn encouraged to work on quality not quantity. She also recommends watching the Webinar How to Develop a Strong Symposium, Roundtable, Workshop, and Abstract Submission available through *IAFP Connect* ([How to Develop a Strong Symposium, Roundtable, Workshop, or Abstract Submission – Aug 18th, 2018 on Vimeo](#)). Members were encouraged to attend the Seafood PDG Session: Smoking for Food Safety – Clean Labeling and Integrated Strategies, Session 53.

New Business: The student liaison invited Members of the Seafood PDG to get involved with the Student PDG through different activities that included Meet Your Favorite Scientist, 3-Minute Thesis Competition, and Proposal submissions. Evelyn Watts mentioned that the *JFP* editors have developed a list of Potential Invited Reviews to help increase the *JFP* impact factor. John Boyce from Boyce Food Safety was the first guest speaker who presented about “Fostering a Mature Food Safety Culture in the Primary Seafood Industry”.

Padmini Ramachandran from FDA/HFP/OLOAS/OAMT was the second guest speaker who presented about “*Vibrio* Detection and Characterization from Oysters, Crabs, and Scallops Using Metagenomics.”

Evelyn, Jacqueline and John led a brainstorming discussion on session proposals for the IAFP 2026 Annual Meeting. Multiple ideas were developed, and champions/points of contact were identified for numerous topics. Session proposals for the topics will be further developed and refined via email/virtual meetings before the submission deadline. Submissions are due September 30, 2025. Some of the proposal ideas include topics such as the impact of expected new food regulations by FDA, seaweed food safety, dry aging reviewing historical experience for meat products, identification of scientific gaps and inviting chef(s)/industry currently

practicing dry aging, seafood fraud, sequence safe methodology for improving safety, and Iodine in foods—Risks vs Benefits.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Recommend the Board to accept John Boyce as incoming vice chair.

Next Meeting Date: July 26, 2025, New Orleans, LA.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:30 P.M.

Chairperson Name: Evelyn Watts.