

Seafood Safety & Quality PDG

Names of Attendees: Evelyn Watts (Chair), John Boyce (Vice Chair), Chad Becnel, Gabriela Betancourt, Alex Brandt, Hannah Brown, Kristin Butler, Alexandra Calle, Michael Ciaramella, Andrew Clarke, Ada Cowan, Razieh Farzad, Tanushree Barua Gupta, Rachel Hazen, Jessica Jones, Marlee Mims, Mehran Niazi, Katheryn Parraga-Escalante, Kayla Rivera, Prashant Singh, Aswathi Soni, Tori Stivers, Sarah Thomas, Adebimpe Vaughan, Evelyn Watts, Wendy White, Jacqueline Woods, Christine Yu, Shuang Yu, Bonnie Zhu.

Total Number of Attendees: 28.

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 26, 2026, 1:00 P.M.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Razieh Farzad.

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 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 2025 meeting minutes. John Boyce made a motion; Sarah Thomas 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 the Board to accept John Boyce as incoming vice chair. *Board Response:* The Board approves the appointment. The PPG sponsored the webinar “Food Safety Culture at the Source: Leading Strong Practices in Primary Seafood Processing.” A total of nine proposals were submitted, three were 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 Sessions: S5 - Surf & Turf Safety: Innovations in Dry-Aging Muscle Foods, S39 - All Hands On Deck: The Pivotal Role of Food and Agrifood Systems in the Global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Pandemic, and S9 - From Risk to Regulation: FAO/WHO Scientific Advice on *Listeria monocytogenes* and Codex Applications.

New Business: Evelyn presented the 2026 Student PDG updates, encouraging attendees to get involved with the Student PDG through different activities that included Meet Your Favorite Scientist, 3-Minute Thesis Competition, Proposal submissions, Food Safety Flash Competition and inviting students to participate as student representatives.

Michael Ciaramella, Seafood Safety and Technology Specialist, New York Sea Grant, Seafood HACCP Alliance Director was the first guest speaker who presented about “Aquatic Foods Food Safety Training Updates”.

Andrew Clarke, Senior Director, Quality Assurance, Loblaw Companies Limited was the second guest speaker who presented about “Beyond the Dock: How Loblaw Brings Safe, Trusted Seafood to Canadian Consumers”.

Evelyn, and John led a brainstorming discussion on session proposals for the IAFP 2027 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 29, 2026. Proposed PDG session topics include: (1) seaweed food safety, including food safety considerations when seaweed is used as a soil amendment; (2) protecting the U.S. seafood industry from products containing unapproved drug residues; (3) emerging pathogens of public health significance; (4) applications of artificial intelligence in food production, harvesting, processing, and food safety; (5) multidisciplinary approaches to seafood safety that integrate remote sensing, geospatial science, and hydrology for risk assessment. Several additional emerging topics are also being explored.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. We would like to thank the Board for establishing the PDG schedule for the 2026 meeting. The schedule greatly benefited our members by reducing session conflicts and allowing them to participate in PDGs that had previously overlapped. We appreciate the effort to improve accessibility and engagement across the various professional development groups.

Next Meeting Date: July 18, 2027, Kansas City, MO.

Katheryn Parraga motioned to adjourn the meeting, John Boyce seconded.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:30 P.M.

Chairperson Name: Evelyn Watts.