

**NATIONAL
FISHERIES
INSTITUTE**

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December 21, 2007

Division of Dockets Management
(HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF COMMENT PERIOD

RE: [Docket No. 2006N-0168] Food Labeling: Revision of Reference Values and Mandatory Nutrients; Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking 72 FR 62149 (November 2, 2007)

Dear Sir or Madam:

The National Fisheries Institute (NFI) is the nation's leading advocacy organization for the seafood industry. Its member companies represent every element of the industry, from the fishing vessels at sea to national seafood restaurant chains. From responsible aquaculture, to a marketplace supporting free trade, to ensuring consumers have the facts on the health benefits of fish and shellfish, NFI and its members support and promote sound public policy based on scientific research.

NFI respectfully requests that FDA extend the comment period for the above-noted docket. Extending the comment period for an additional ninety days – until April 30, 2008 – would permit all interested stakeholders to prepare detailed and valuable responses to the questions posed in the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM).

The potential revision of reference values and mandatory nutrients that would be a part of mandatory nutritional labeling of foods greatly impacts public health and wellness. The health benefits of seafood consumption have been firmly established in science and it is important that Americans understand the benefits of how omega-3s, proteins, vitamins and minerals found in seafood contribute to good heart and neurological health in both children and adults. We believe that modifications to the reference values and mandatory nutrients could assist in communicating these benefits to the public.

NFI would like to ensure that our responses to the Agency's many questions will encompass the scientific rigor necessary to be valuable to the Agency's deliberations for

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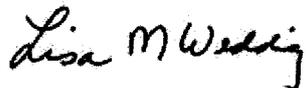
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modifying the nutritional labeling requirements. We feel that the ninety day comment period proposed by FDA may not allow sufficient time to thoroughly research responses to the questions. Because of this, NFI respectfully requests that FDA extend the comment period until April 30, 2008. Thank you for your consideration with this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa M Weddig".

Lisa M. Weddig
Director, Regulatory and Technical Affairs