

# **Emerging Food Safety Risks: New Developments**

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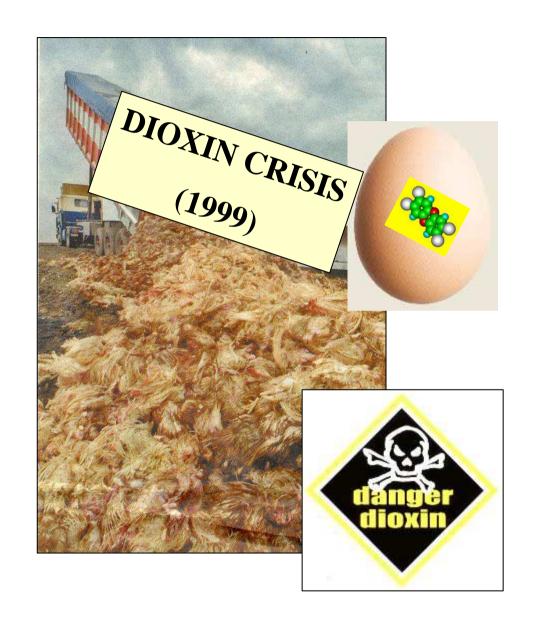


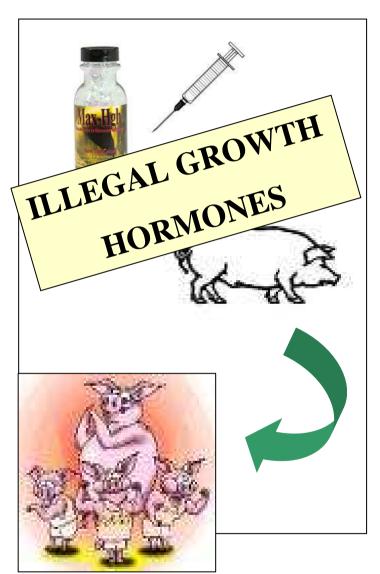


## Outline of the presentation

- Food safety crises in Europe
- Food Safety Authorities (EU, The Netherlands)
- Emerging risk definitions
- Emerging risk identification: a holistic approach









#### The Pusztai Potato

#### Frankenstein Food





Introduction of GMO's Illustration: Lin the European food chain





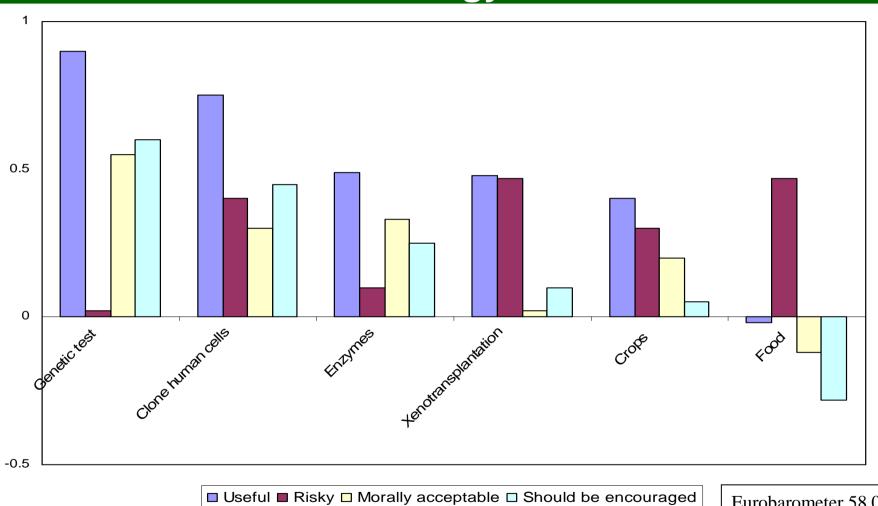
Friends of the Earth

**GMO-free** 

Greenpeace



## European attitudes to six applications of biotechnology in 2002



Eurobarometer 58.0



## Food Safety & Risk Assessment

 Broad public concern about the safety of the European food supply



- BSE, dioxin, *E. coli* 0157, GM food crops...
- Low public trust in how food crises were handled
- Low trust in the regulatory system in Europe



## The European Commission reacted

 EU White Paper on Food Safety (COM (1999), 719 final)



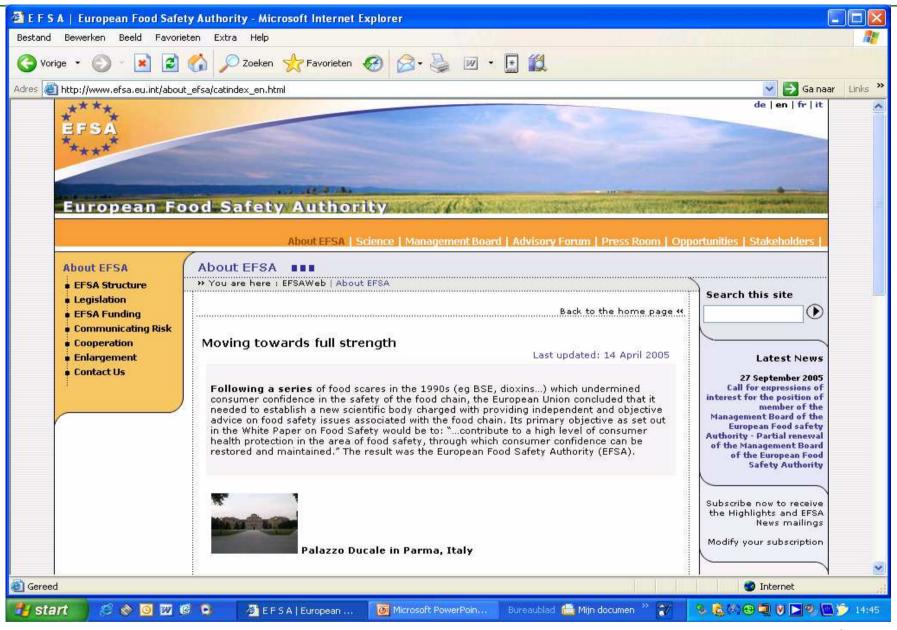
 General Food Law (Regulation 178/2002)



 Establishment of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in 2002, http://www.efsa.eu.int









## Tasks of EFSA

Risk assessment



Risk communication



NOT Risk management!





## In many EU members states Food Safety Authorities were established; also in The Netherlands



Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) (Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport)

Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (VWA)

#### **KvW**

Inspectorate for Health Protection and Veterinary Public Health

#### RVV

National Inspection Service for Livestock and Meat



#### **Food Authorities reaction**

"To decrease the number of food safety crises it is important to detect the problem in an very early stage, preferably before it develops"

#### Available tools:

- Monitoring systems
- Rapid Alerts:
  - EU: RASFF
  - WHO: INFOSAN







## Overview of early warning systems

- Overview of early warning systems (reactive)
  - European Rapid Alert System on Food and Feed (RASFF)



 European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)



Center for Disease control (CDC, USA)



- WHO early warning activities
  - Global Public Health Intelligence Network (GPHIN)

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## Overview of early warning systems

- Predictive early warning: emerging risk systems
  - Early warning systems for mycotoxin in maize and / or wheat
  - Trend analysis using information of early warning systems (e.g. RASFF)
  - Holistic approach





## **Emerging Risk Projects**

Some projects aim to develop new tools for the early detection of emerging risks (with involvement of RIKILT)

- EU 6th FP: PERIAPT
- EU 6th FP: SAFE FOODS; Workpackage 2
- EFSA: EMRISK
- Dutch project: Emerging Risks in the Dutch Food Chain

Holistic approach: look at influences inside and outside the food chain



## Some definitions (from EFSA 2007)

### **Emerging Risk:**

An emerging risk to human, animal and/or plant health is understood as a risk resulting from a newly identified hazard to which a significant exposure may occur or from an unexpected new or increased significant exposure and. Or susceptibility to a known hazard

### **Assessment of Emerging Risk:**

Early detection of facts related to that risk derived either from research and/or monitoring programs or episodic observation.



## Some definitions (from EFSA 2007)

### **Emerging Risk Identification:**

Evidence supporting the identification of an emerging risk should preferably be in the form of an "indicator" and of a trend over time or space.

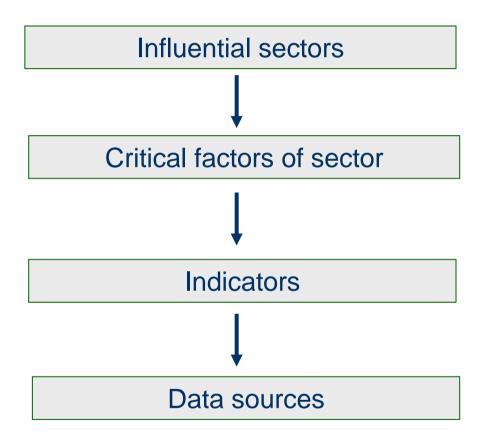
#### "Indicator"

"Indicator" is a measurement and/or observation that should be reliable, sensitive, quantifiable and should provide the information of the nature of the hazard (agent/ process involved) and the source of risk.

"Indicators" may point to a specific emerging risk in different ways, either directly or indirectly related to the food chain.

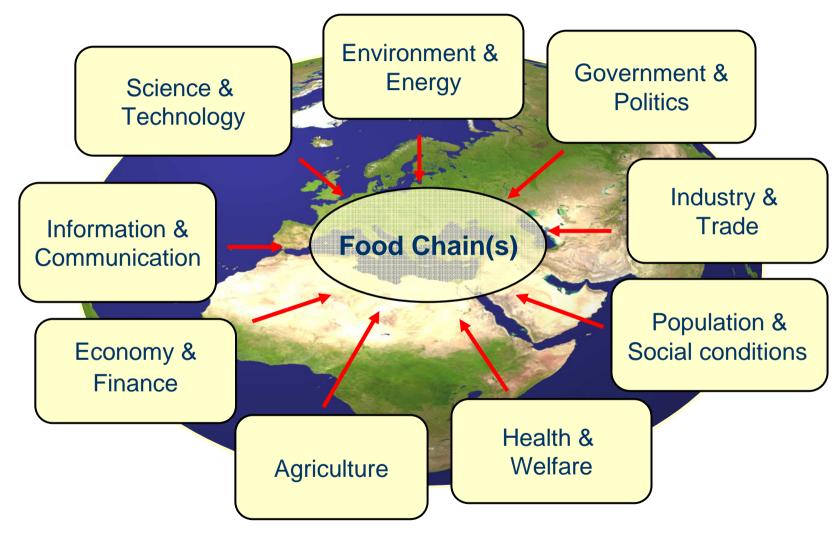


## Holistic approach followed





## **Examples of Influential Sectors**



Source: Wim Ooms VWA, 2006

FOOG

## **Key information**

To determine the indicators (first influential sector) for emerging food safety risks, case studies have been performed on recent food safety incidents.

Examples (from different projects):

- Use of botanicals/ herbs in Food and Feed
  - Renal disease after Chinese slimming pills in Belgium
  - Intoxication by consumption of star anise tea
- BSE
- Antibiotics in cultured shrimp
- Acrylamide
- Perfluorinated contaminants in fish
- PCB's/ dioxines and organochloor pesticides in fish
- Dioxine in pork meat
- VTEC Escherichia coli

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## A case study

 Antibiotics in cultured shrimp (an example)

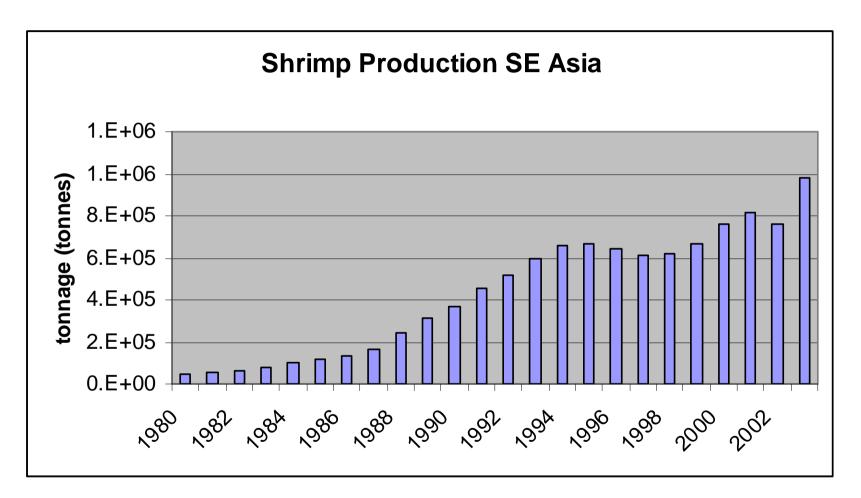






Source: "Inventory of possible emerging hazards to food safety and an analysis of critical factors" G.A Kleter, M. Poelman, M.J. Groot and H.J.P. Marvin (2006)

# Increased demand in Europe for fishery products; increased production in SE Asia





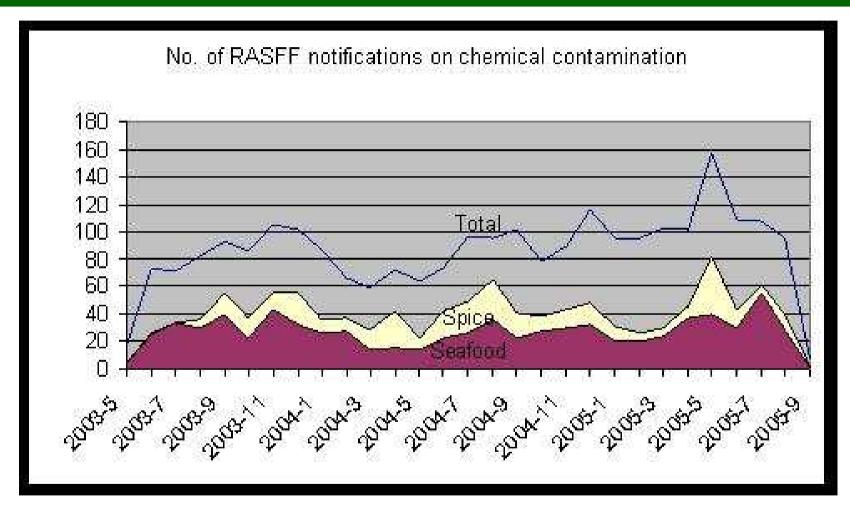
## **Problems occurring**

Increased production associated with intensification of aquaculture

- Increase disease pressure
- Increase use of antibiotics (CAP and nitrofuran)
- No MRL existed for these compounds
- EU; zero tolerance
- Increased control



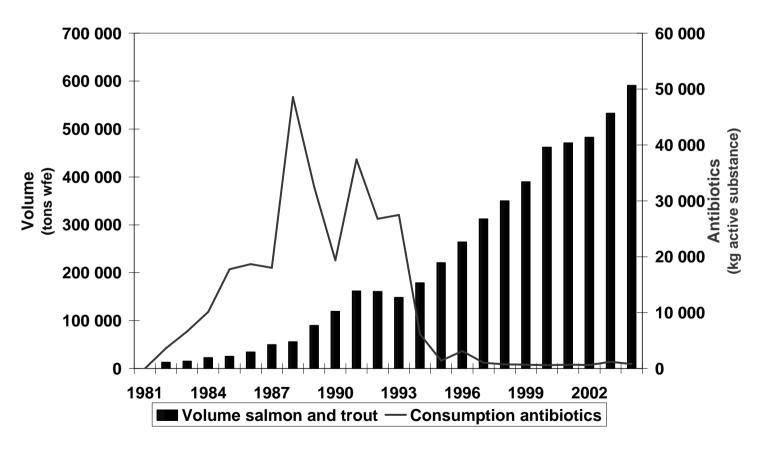
## Monthly notifications of chemical contamination in RASFF



Source: Consumer health hazards in international food trade; Thom Achterbosch 2005



## Another case: Use of antibiotics in Norway set off against the volume of farmed salmon and trout





## **Example of holistic analysis**

- Increased production → increased disease pressure
   → antibiotic use → risk. Indicator: increased
   production. Source: FAO, EUROSTAT
- Increased small scale production → lack of knowledge → misuse → risk. Indicator: increased small scale production; Source: FAO
- More resistant strains → other antibiotics → new risk. Indicator: more resistant strains; Source: science programs
- Lack of international harmonised legislation → zero tolerance → risk.

## **Emerging risk systems: Holistic approach**

#### Conclusions of the case studies

In every case study influential sectors were identified

- Most frequent influential sectors were:
  - Science and technology
  - Human behavior
  - Nature and environment
  - Legislation & economy
- Many indicators were identified, generic and casespecific
- Emerging risk systems based on holistic principle seem promising but need much more research



## **Emerging risk systems: Holistic approach**

## Towards a holistic Emerging Risk System

Dutch research project
"Emerging risks in the Dutch food chain"\*
4-years project (2004-2008)
Coordinator: Hans Marvin (RIKILT)

\*(supervised by VWA and LNV)



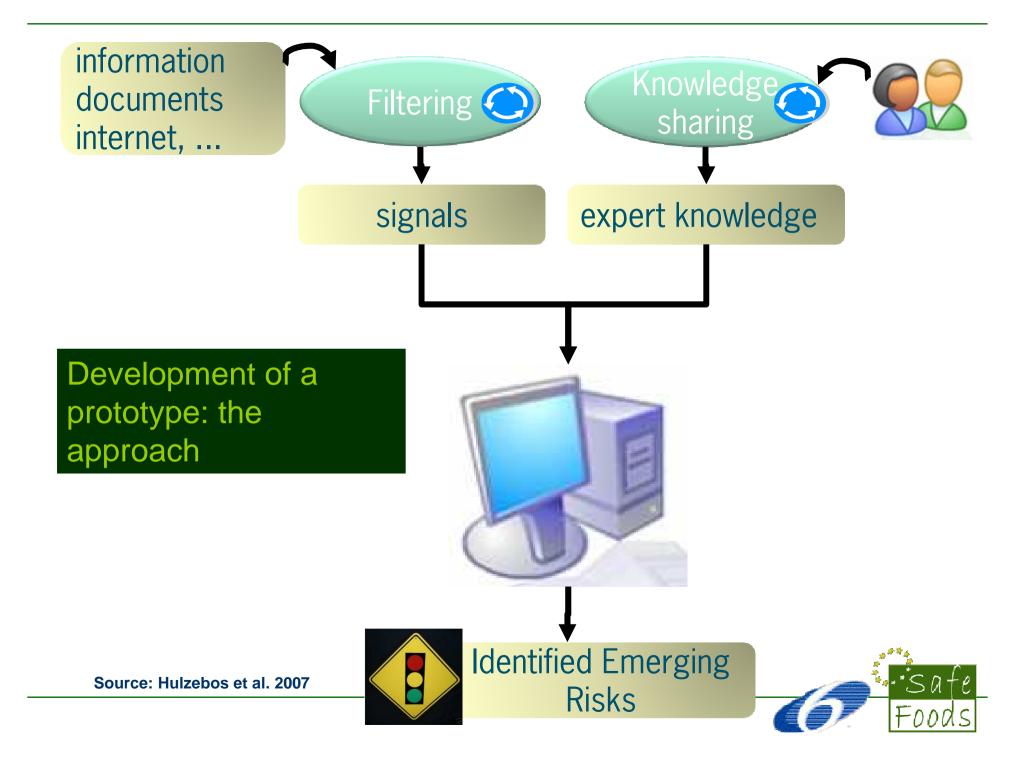
#### **Performed studies**

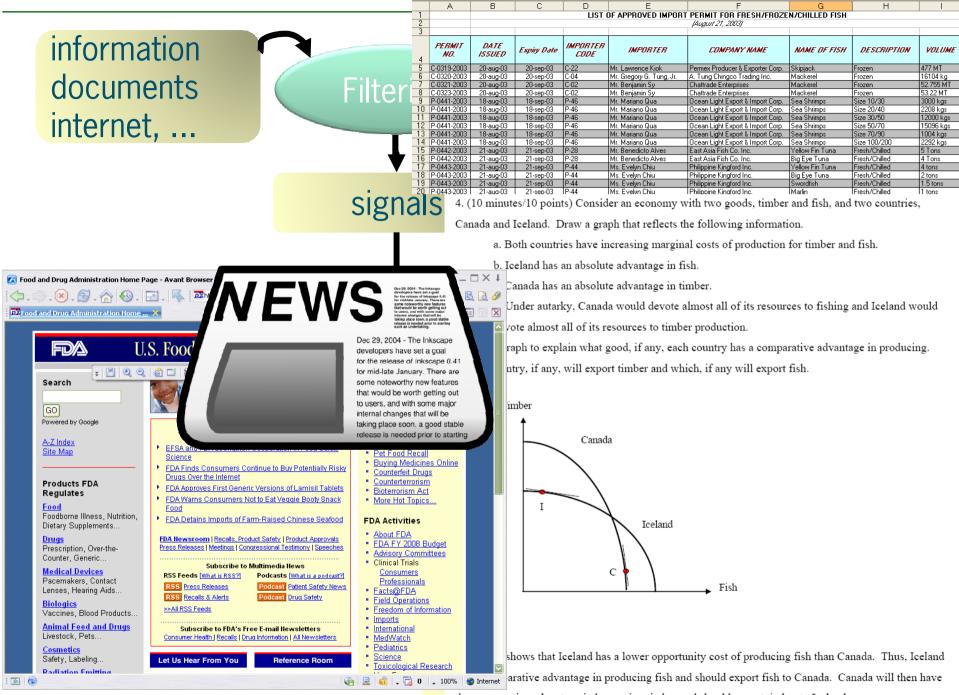
- Pro-active approaches to the identification of emerging risks in the food chain: retrospective case studies (Dioxin in pork meat, BSE crisis in Great Britain, The HPA1 epidemic in the Netherlands in 2003, Residues of PCBs, dioxins and organochlorine pesticides in cultured fish, Perfluorinated contaminants in fish)
- Inventory of possible emerging hazards to food safety and analysis of critical factors (antibiotics in shrimps; pesticides of natural origin)
- Consumer health hazards in international food trade
- The perception of emerging risks among stakeholders in the food production chain

WORKSHOP "Emerging Risks and Early Warning Systems": http://www.afsg.nl/emergingrisks

- Focus on the fish production chain
- Option for pro-active identifying emerging risk in the fish production chain
- Development of a prototype

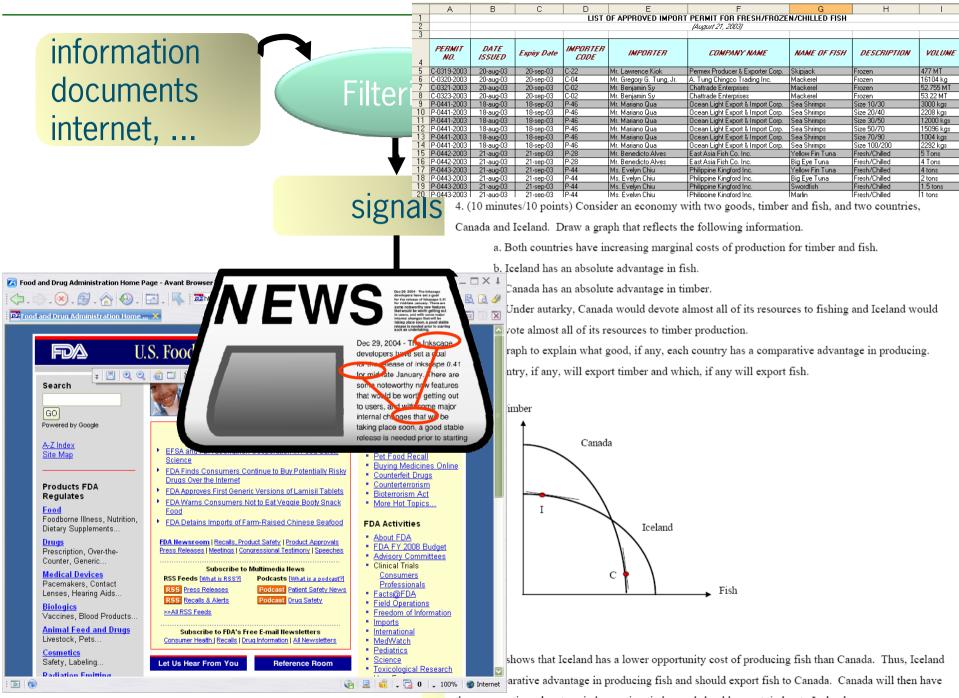






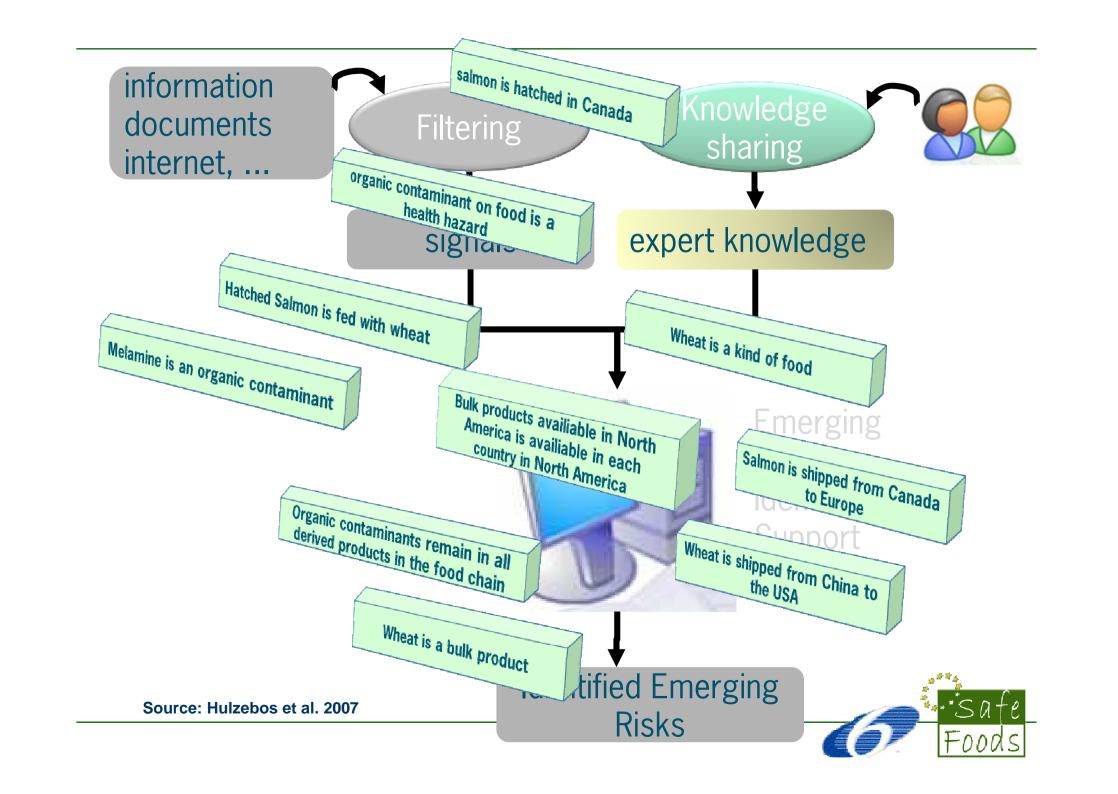
Source: Hulzebos et al. 2007

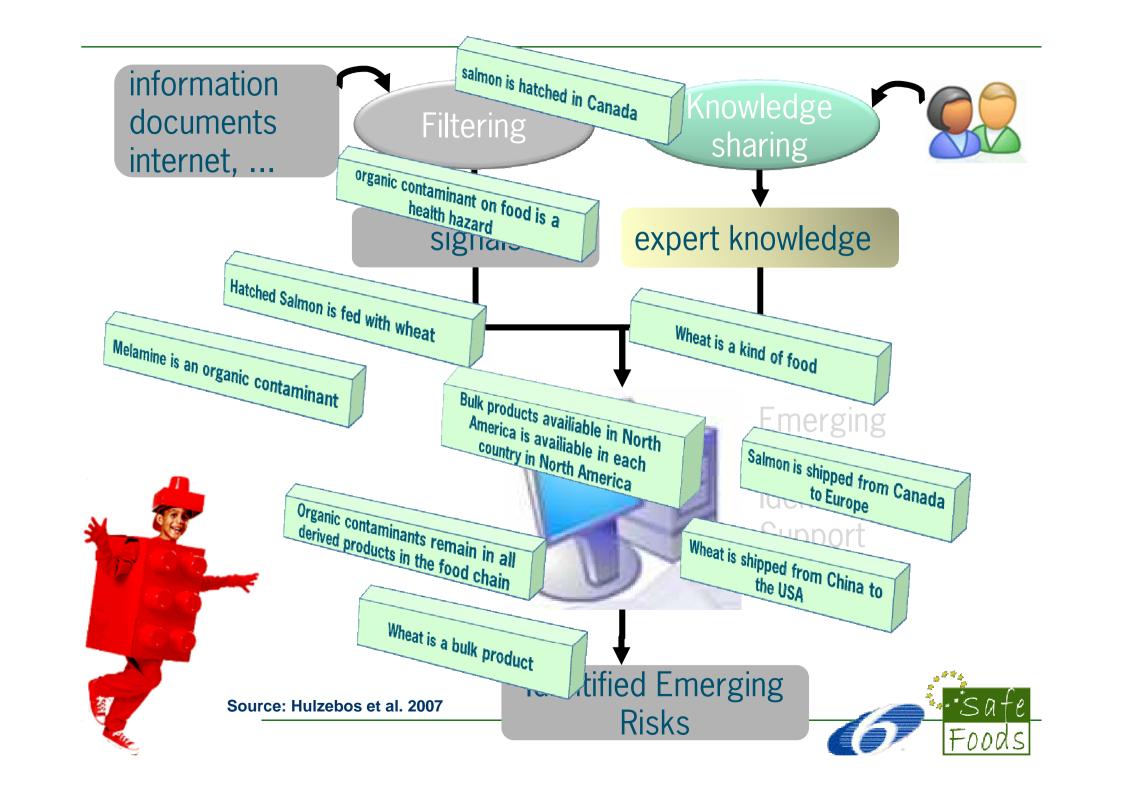
the comparative advantage in harvesting timber and should export timber to Iceland.

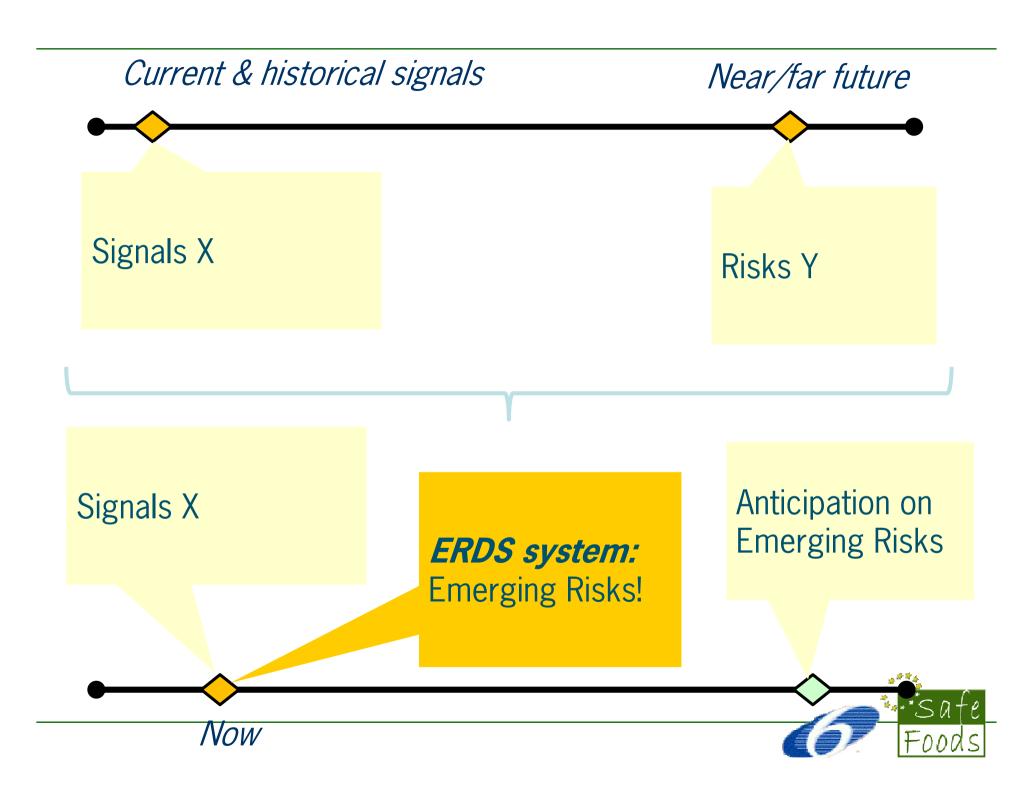


Source: Hulzebos et al. 2007

the comparative advantage in harvesting timber and should export timber to Iceland.







#### 2007-March-30

## 2007-May-09

The USA ceases imports of wheat gluten from a Chinese company

Melamine discovered in hatchery fish food in Canada

The FDA ceases imports of wheat gluten from a Chinese company

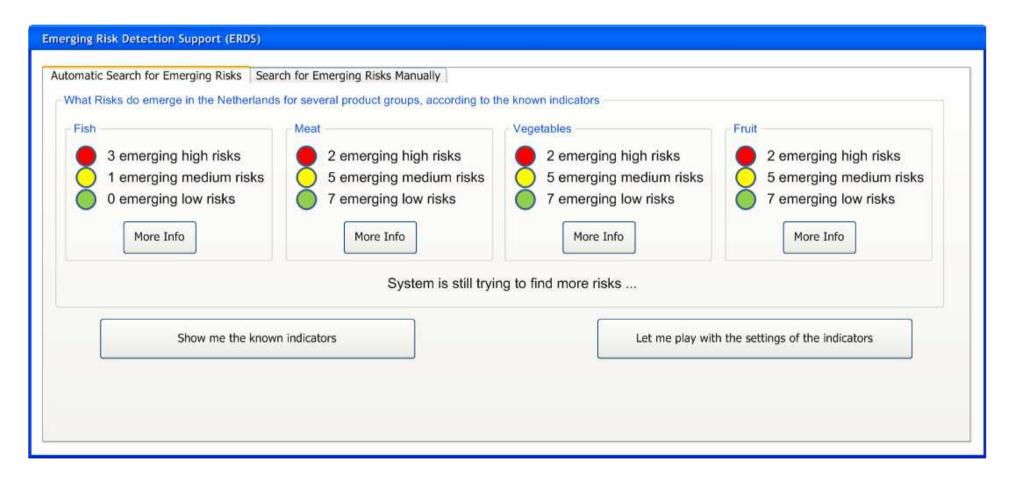
## ERDS system:

Melamine is an emerging risk in hatchery fish food!

Anticipated on emerging risk in Canada

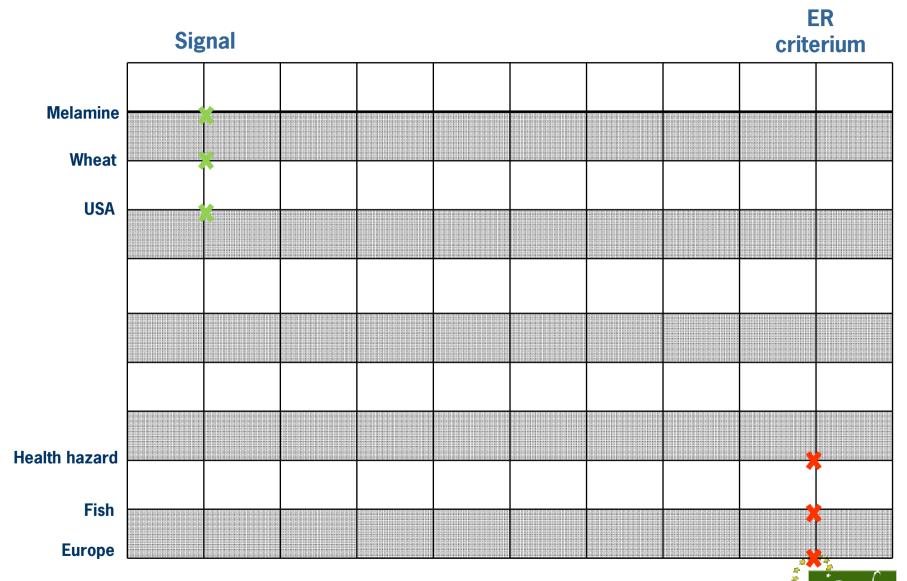


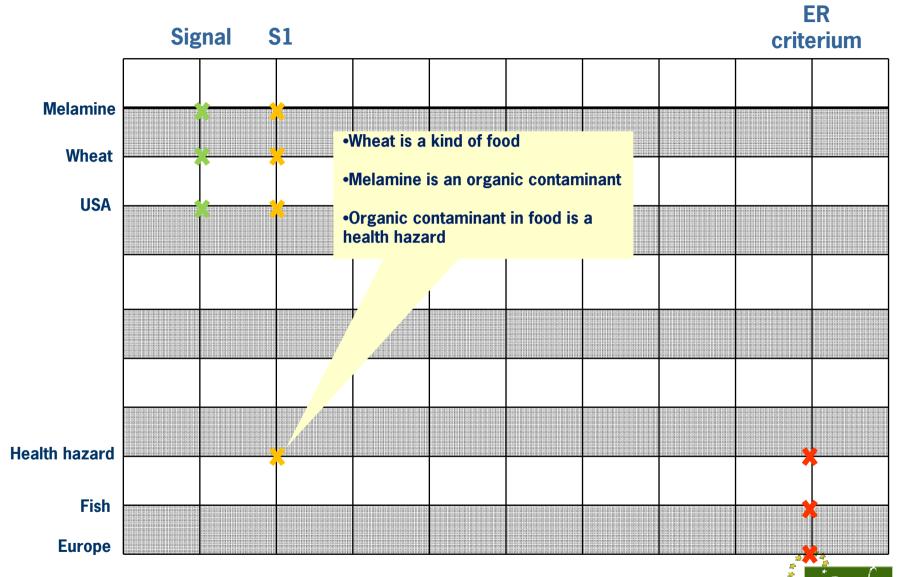
# Possible design of the Emerging Risk Detection System; first page

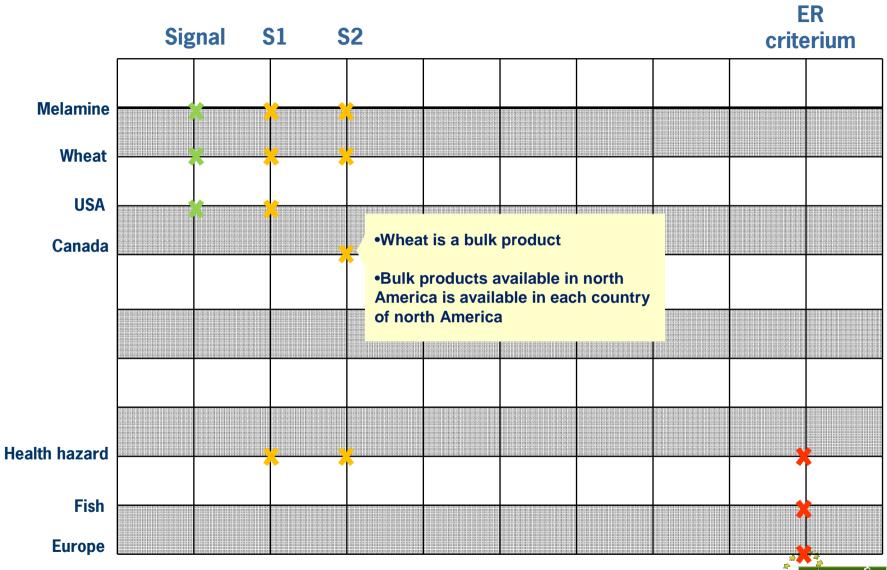


Source: Hulzebos et al. 2007

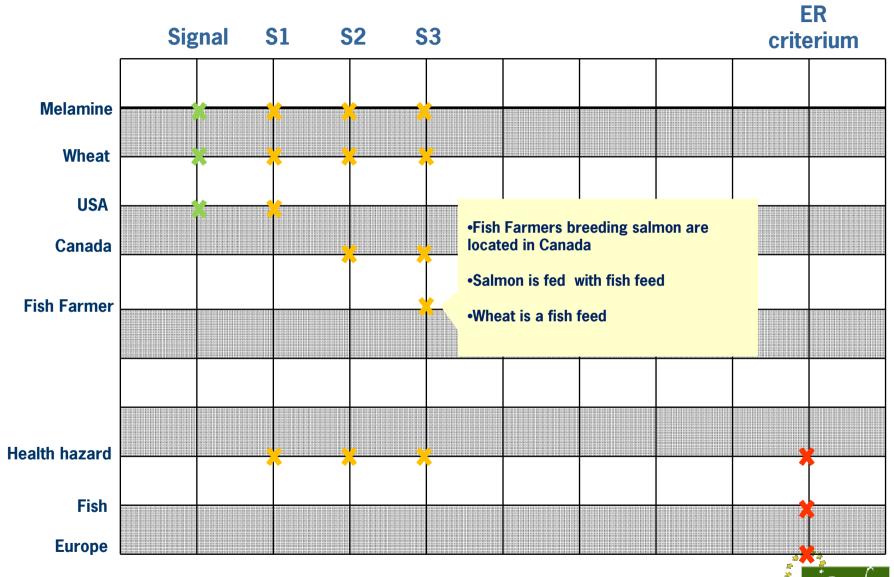


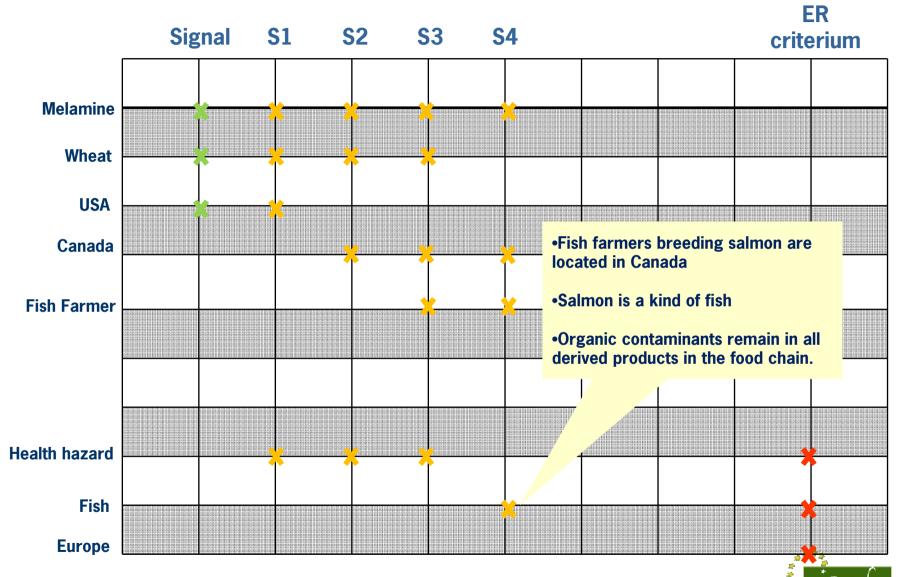


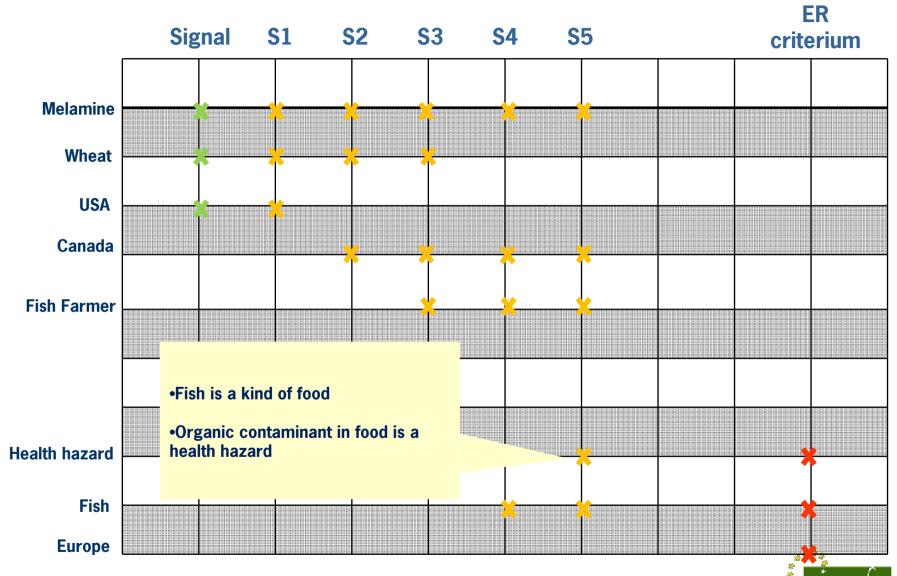


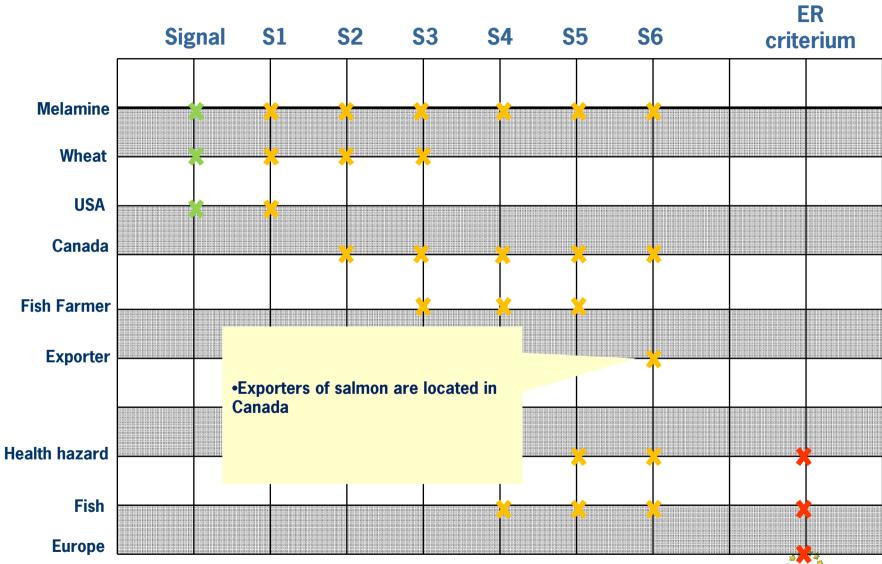




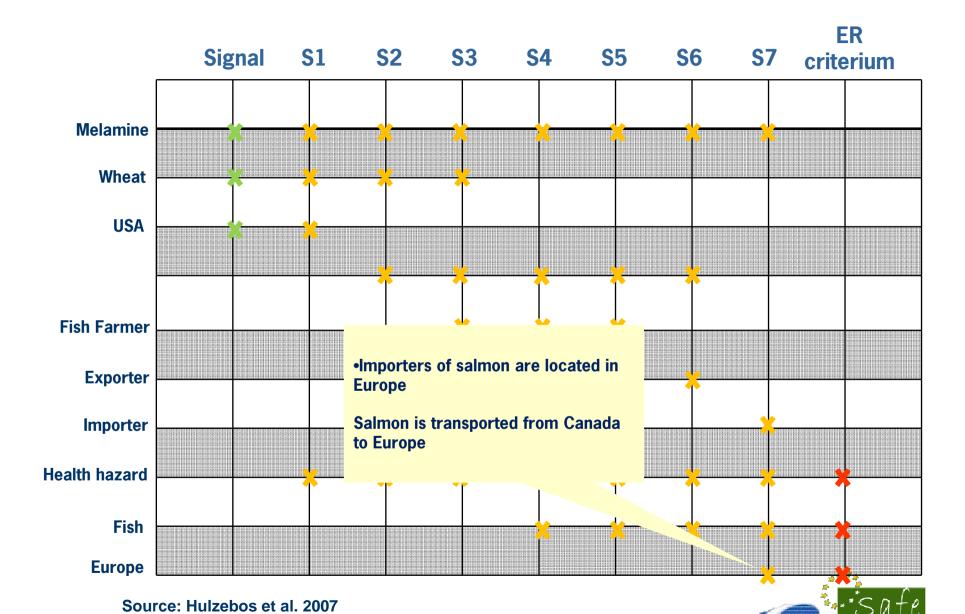


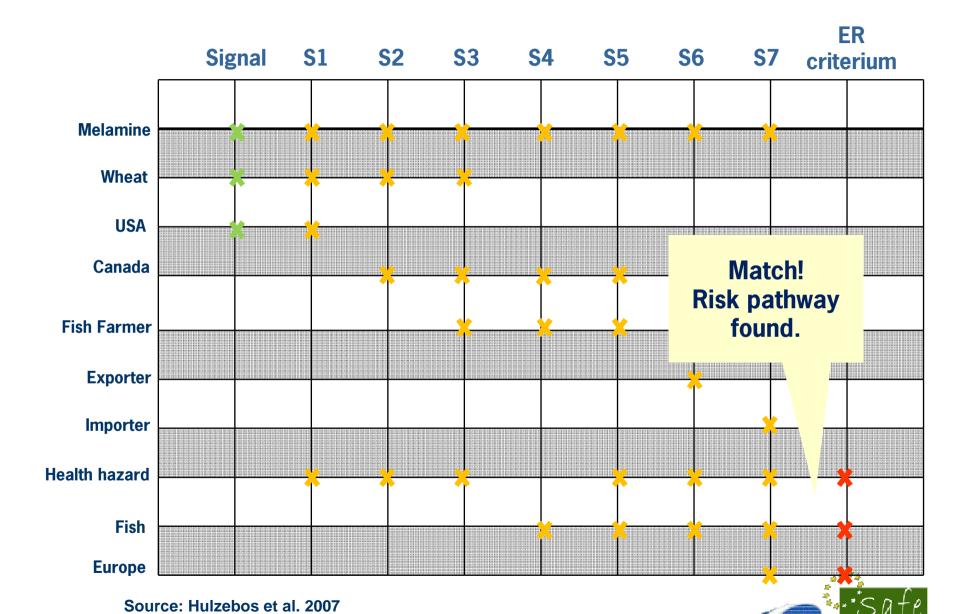












#### Emerging Risk Detection Support (ERDS): Search for Emerging Risks Found Risks with high health risk, europe, salmon Risk #3 showing situations related to high microbiological risk, europe, salmon Risk nr. Importance #user questions keywords global high health risk, chile, antibiotic ... red red 0 red 2 high health risk, chile, farming ... 3 high microbiological risk, listeria ... red medium health risk, s.e. asia, catfish orange Melamine, Wheat, USA Health Hazard, Europe, Salmon Show in Graph Situations ✓ observed possible Attributes Legenda: behavior · Each rectangle represents an situation. product · A situation consists of one or more attributes that are actor or can be valid alltogether in a certain moment of time. location . The lines represent the cause/effect relations between ☐ risk two situations or the semantic equivalent relationships. Click a rectangle for more details Source: Hulzebos et al. 2007 hazard Report Change Search Criteria

1 00003

# Emerging Risk Detection Support (ERDS): Search for Emerging Risks Found Risks with high health risk, europe, salmon Risk nr. Importance #user guestions keywords

Risk nr.	Importance	#user questions	keywords
1	red	0	high health risk, chile, antibiotic
2	red	2	high health risk, chile, farming
3	red	4	high microbiological risk, listeria
4	orange	2	medium health risk, s.e. asia, catfish

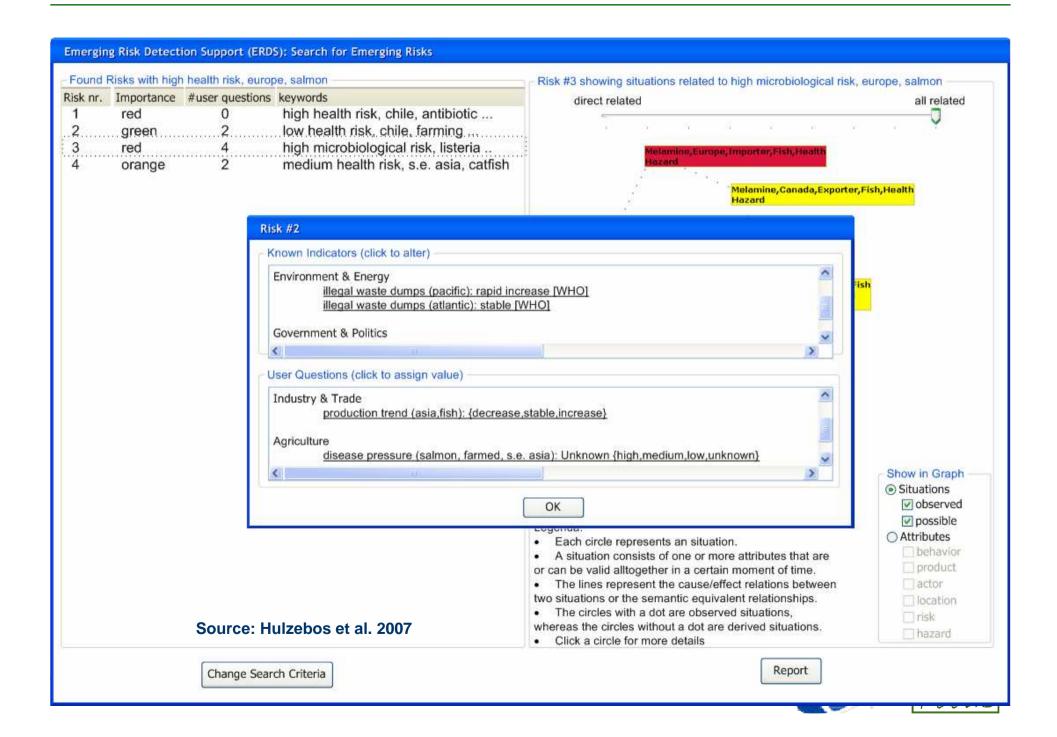
Risk #3 showing situations related to high microbiological risk, europe, salmon global amino, Europe, Importer, Fish, Healt Melamine, Canada, Exporter, Fish, Health Health Hazard, Europe, Salmon Melamine, Canada, Fish Farmer, Fish, Health Melamine, Wheat, USA Melamine, Canada, Fish Farmer, Fish Melamine, Wheat, Canada, Health Melamine, Wheat, Canada, Health Hazard,Fish Farmer Show in Graph Situations ✓ observed possible Attributes Legenda: behavior · Each rectangle represents an situation. product · A situation consists of one or more attributes that are actor or can be valid alltogether in a certain moment of time. · The lines represent the cause/effect relations between location two situations or the semantic equivalent relationships. ☐ risk · Click a rectangle for more details hazard

Source: Hulzebos et al. 2007

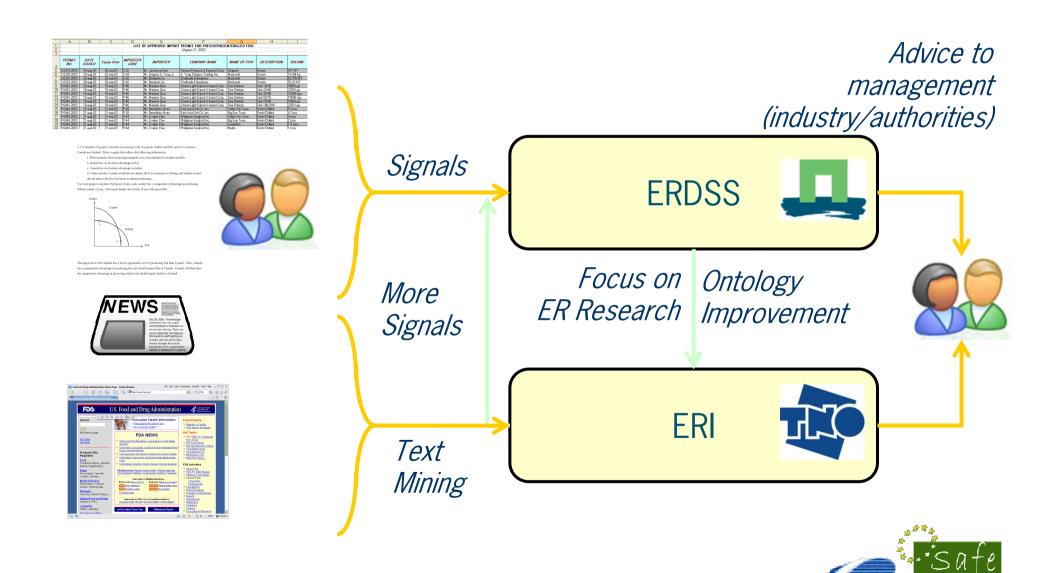
Change Search Criteria

Report





### Future perspectives: combining two systems



#### Further questions to be answered

- What is the quality of the data sources?
- How to avoid overkill of output?
- Is there a quantitative relationship between indicator(s) (data source) and the emerging risk?
- Can we make a generic method / procedure to identify emerging risks in the food and feed chain based on the indicators?





## Thank you for your attention



