

# NOSB COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Form NOPLIST1. Committee Transmittal to NOSB

For NOSB Meeting: March 2007 Substance: Sea Salt

Committee: Crops  Livestock  Handling  Petition is for: \_\_\_\_\_  
 on the National List § 205.605

A. Evaluation Criteria (Applicability noted for each category; Documentation attached)	Criteria Satisfied? (see B below)
1. Impact on Humans and Environment	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Essential & Availability Criteria	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Compatibility & Consistency	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Commercial Supply is Fragile or Potentially Unavailable as Organic (only for 606)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>

B. Substance Fails Criteria Category: \_\_\_\_\_ Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Proposed Annotation (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Basis for annotation: To meet criteria above: \_\_\_\_\_ Other regulatory criteria: \_\_\_\_\_ Citation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Recommended Committee Action & Vote (State Actual Motion):**

The petitioner requests consideration of the principle components of sea salt for allowance in organic production. The four principle components are: sodium chloride, potassium chloride, magnesium chloride and magnesium sulfate. Sodium chloride is designated as exempt within the regulation as "salt". This was further clarified by the NOP. Potassium chloride and Magnesium sulfate are presently permitted through their listing on § 205.605a as non synthetic non agricultural materials allowed for organic production. The petitioner further requested that magnesium chloride present listed on § 205.605b as a synthetic material, be moved to 205.605a as a nonsynthetic. This request was made in order to ensure the allowance of this material after the recent court action. The petitioner was concerned that due to the court order, synthetic materials would not be allowed for organic production. Upon review of the original TAP, this material was deemed as synthetic due to a bleaching process that is used after extraction from sea water. Further, the Federal Register notice of 5 June 2006, clarifies that an amendment to the statute made after the court order negated the issues of synthetics allowed in organic production. Therefore, item listed on § 205.605b continue to be allowed for inclusion in organic products. For this reason, moving this material is unnecessary.

The committee recognizes that the petitioner may desire the listing of "sea salt" on the national list as allowed. In order to accommodate this, the petitioner must provide a detailed petition that addresses all the criteria per the instruction listed on the NOP website. Upon receipt, a TAP review must be done and evaluated to assess the manufacturing process as well as the health and environmental impact of the material and all of its content as is the procedure. This must include all possible constituent both principle and minor.

The Handling Committee recommends making no changes to the National List in response to this petition.

Motion by: Julie Weisman Seconded: Andrea Caroe Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0

Crops		Agricultural		Allowed <sup>1</sup>	
Livestock		Non-Synthetic		Prohibited <sup>2</sup>	
Handling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Synthetic		Rejected <sup>3</sup>	
No restriction		Commercially Un-Available as Organic <sup>1</sup>		Deferred <sup>4</sup>	

1) Substance voted to be added as "allowed" on National List to § 205. \_\_\_\_\_ with Annotation (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

2) Substance to be added as "prohibited" on National List to § 205. \_\_\_\_\_ with Annotation (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Describe why a prohibited substance: \_\_\_\_\_

3) Substance was rejected by vote for amending National List to § 205. \_\_\_\_\_ Describe why material was rejected: \_\_\_\_\_

4) Substance was recommended to be deferred because \_\_\_\_\_ If follow-up needed, who will follow up \_\_\_\_\_

**E. Approved by Committee Chair to transmit to NOSB:**

Julie Weisman  
Committee Chair

February 19, 2007  
Date

**NOSB EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR SUBSTANCES ADDED TO THE NATIONAL LIST**

**Category 1. Adverse impacts on humans or the environment?**      Substance - Sea Salt

Question	Yes	No	N/A <sup>1</sup>	Documentation (TAP; petition; regulatory agency; other)
1. Are there adverse effects on environment from manufacture, use, or disposal? [§205.600 b.2]				
2. Is there environmental contamination during manufacture, use, misuse, or disposal? [§6518 m.3]				
3. Is the substance harmful to the environment? [§6517c(1)(A)(i);6517(c)(2)(A)i]				
4. Does the substance contain List 1, 2, or 3 inerts? [§6517 c (1)(B)(ii); 205.601(m)2]				
5. Is there potential for detrimental chemical interaction with other materials used? [§6518 m.1]				
6. Are there adverse biological and chemical interactions in agro-ecosystem? [§6518 m.5]				
7. Are there detrimental physiological effects on soil organisms, crops, or livestock? [§6518 m.5]				
8. Is there a toxic or other adverse action of the material or its breakdown products? [§6518 m.2]				
9. Is there undesirable persistence or concentration of the material or breakdown products in environment?[§6518 m.2]				
10. Is there any harmful effect on human health? [§6517 c (1)(A)(i) ; 6517 c(2)(A)i; §6518 m.4]				
11. Is there an adverse effect on human health as defined by applicable Federal regulations? [205.600 b.3]				
12. Is the substance GRAS when used according to FDA's good manufacturing practices? [§205.600 b.5]				
13. Does the substance contain residues of heavy metals or other contaminants in excess of FDA tolerances? [§205.600 b.5]				

<sup>1</sup>If the substance under review is for crops or livestock production, all of the questions from 205.600 (b) are N/A—not applicable.

**Category 2. Is the Substance Essential for Organic Production? Substance - Sea Salt**

Question	Yes	No	N/A <sup>1</sup>	Documentation (TAP; petition; regulatory agency; other)
1. Is the substance formulated or manufactured by a chemical process? [6502 (21)]				
2. Is the substance formulated or manufactured by a process that chemically changes a substance extracted from naturally occurring plant, animal, or mineral, sources? [6502 (21)]				
3. Is the substance created by naturally occurring biological processes? [6502 (21)]				
4. Is there a natural source of the substance? [§205.600 b.1]				
5. Is there an organic substitute? [§205.600 b.1]				
6. Is the substance essential for handling of organically produced agricultural products? [§205.600 b.6]				
7. Is there a wholly natural substitute product? [§6517 c (1)(A)(ii)]				
8. Is the substance used in handling, not synthetic, but not organically produced? [§6517 c (1)(B)(iii)]				
9. Is there any alternative substances? [§6518 m.6]				
10. Is there another practice that would make the substance unnecessary? [§6518 m.6]				

<sup>1</sup>If the substance under review is for crops or livestock production, all of the questions from 205.600 (b) are N/A—not applicable.

**Category 3. Is the substance compatible with organic production practices? Substance - Sea Salt**

Question	Yes	No	N/A <sup>1</sup>	Documentation (TAP; petition; regulatory agency; other)
1. Is the substance compatible with organic handling? [§205.600 b.2]				
2. Is the substance consistent with organic farming and handling? [§6517 c (1)(A)(iii); 6517 c (2)(A)(ii)]				
3. Is the substance compatible with a system of sustainable agriculture? [§6518 m.7]				
4. Is the nutritional quality of the food maintained with the substance? [§205.600 b.3]				
5. Is the primary use as a preservative? [§205.600 b.4]				
6. Is the primary use to recreate or improve flavors, colors, textures, or nutritive values lost in processing (except when required by law, e.g., vitamin D in milk)? [205.600 b.4]				
7. Is the substance used in production, and does it contain an active synthetic ingredient in the following categories:				
a. copper and sulfur compounds;				
b. toxins derived from bacteria;				
c. pheromones, soaps, horticultural oils, fish emulsions, treated seed, vitamins and minerals?				
d. livestock parasiticides and medicines?				
e. production aids including netting, tree wraps and seals, insect traps, sticky barriers, row covers, and equipment cleaners?				

<sup>1</sup>If the substance under review is for crops or livestock production, all of the questions from 205.600 (b) are N/A—not applicable.

**Category 4. Is the commercial supply of an agricultural substance as organic, fragile or potentially unavailable?** [§6610, 6518, 6519, 205.2, 205.105 (d), 205.600 (c) 205.2, 205.105 (d), 205.600 (c)]

Substance - Sea Salt

Question	Yes	No	N/A	Comments on Information Provided (sufficient, plausible, reasonable, thorough, complete, unknown)
1. <u>Is the comparative description provided</u> as to why the non-organic form of the material /substance is necessary for use in organic handling?				
2. Does the current and historical industry information, research, or evidence provided explain how or why the material /substance cannot be obtained organically in the appropriate <b>form</b> to fulfill an essential function in a system of organic handling?				
3. Does the current and historical industry information, research, or evidence provided explain how or why the material /substance cannot be obtained organically in the appropriate <b>quality</b> to fulfill an essential function in a system of organic handling?				
4. Does the current and historical industry information, research, or evidence provided explain how or why the material /substance cannot be obtained organically in the appropriate <b>quantity</b> to fulfill an essential function in a system of organic handling?				
5. Does the industry information provided on material / substance non-availability as organic, include ( but not limited to) the following:				
a. Regions of production (including factors such as climate and number of regions);				
b. Number of suppliers and amount produced;				
c. Current and historical supplies related to weather events such as hurricanes, floods, and droughts that may temporarily halt production or destroy crops or supplies;				
d. Trade-related issues such as evidence of hoarding, war, trade barriers, or civil unrest that may temporarily restrict supplies; or				
e. Are there other issues which may present a challenge to a consistent supply?				