#### **COVER LETTER**

## Dear Editor-in-Chief,

I herewith enclosed a research article,

#### Title:

Food-Chemical Pairs Prioritization of Rejected Indonesian Fishery Exports due to Food Safety Issues

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# **Novelty:**

(Please state your claimed novelty of the findings versus current knowledge)

In Indonesia, fishery has become a major food commodity export. However, Indonesia often receives notifications from importing countries, mentioning rejection of the commodity due to chemical contamination. Because of the wide variety of rejected products and chemical issues, a prioritization should be made to focus which products deserve immediate intervention from the government.

Several works have used risk ranking method for prioritizing chemical hazards in food. However, to the best of our knowledge, these works and most of other risk ranking studies primarily focused on health impact as a basis for prioritizing chemical hazards in food. Our manuscript discusses on the prioritization of chemicals issues in Indonesian rejected fishery products, with the standpoint of not only health concern but also economic impact as well.

We believe that this manuscript offers a novel approach to rank food and chemical contaminants, and hopefully, it will be useful not only for Indonesian food authorities but also other countries in developing mitigation strategies for reducing the risk of export rejections.

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Bogor, 31 January 2022

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