

Review



Recent Advances in Marine-Based Nutraceuticals and Their Health Benefits

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Abstract: The oceans have been the Earth's most valuable source of food. They have now also become a valuable and versatile source of bioactive compounds. The significance of marine organisms as a natural source of new substances that may contribute to the food sector and the overall health of humans are expanding. This review is an update on the recent studies of functional seafood compounds (chitin and chitosan, pigments from algae, fish lipids and omega-3 fatty acids, essential amino acids and bioactive proteins/peptides, polysaccharides, phenolic compounds, and minerals) focusing on their potential use as nutraceuticals and health benefits.

Keywords: nutraceuticals; pharmaceuticals; bioactive compounds; functional foods; marine resources

1. Introduction

The raw foods, functional foods or dietary supplements that contain bioactive molecules and have ability to provide health benefits (prevention and treatment of disease) beyond their nutritional value are known as "nutraceuticals" [1]. This term combines two words, nutrient and medicinal component (pharmaceutical). In recent years, functional and bioactive compounds from natural sources such as terrestrial and marine plants, animals, or even microorganisms have become sustainable solution that offers new molecules with strong biological activity. With the increase in the field of health-based research these new molecules are gaining more importance. Modern dietary habits and lifestyle in developed countries have resulted in an increasing number of diseases such as type 2 diabetes mellitus, obesity, metabolic syndrome, cancer, or neurodegenerative diseases [2]. Bioactive components from natural sources with an ability to contribute to the overall health have become an interesting alternative to potentially harmful synthetic ingredients.

The high diversity and dynamics of marine ecosystem makes an ideal reservoir identification of new molecules and development of marine nutraceuticals. More than 20,000 marine bioactive compounds have been isolated, however, only a small proportion of them have been thoroughly studied and exploited to some degree [3]. Marine ecosystems have earned a title "Natural Medicine Chest of the New Millennium" and are becoming an important market worldwide. In 2018, the global market for marine-derived compounds was over 10 billion US dollars, which is expected to rise to \$22 billion by 2025 at a compound annual growth rate of 11.3% from 2019–2025 [4]. The compounds from marine sources that have shown beneficial health effects and a potential use in food and medical applications, include protein and peptides, polysaccharides, ω -3 polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA), enzymes, polyphenolic compounds, pigments, and vitamins [5–7].

Generally, synthetic chemical drugs are still used in medical practice to treat diverse acute or chronic diseases, mainly various disorders involving the immune system's chronic inflammatory states, allergic reactions, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, severe human tumors, and cancers or as immunosuppressant during transplantation. Despite their treatment's effectiveness, there are often significant human health concerns regarding the side effects of many of these synthetic chemical drugs and conventional antibiotics due to the misuse, uncontrolled application, and overuse of these compounds and sometimes even to their proper use. The application and especially misuse of some synthetic antimicrobial drugs may be among the principal factor responsible for the development of antibiotic-resistant microbes (ARM). The power of natural nutraceuticals is in their ability to improve the quality of life, prevent or even treat some conditions without any adverse side effects. The safe nature of marine nutraceuticals makes them more desirable, therefore, it may be beneficial to develop non-toxic but effective natural agents as alternatives to the chemical compounds [6]. Many marine organisms, including fish, crustaceans, algae, molluscs, sponges, actinomycetes, fungi and microorganisms have been exploited as sources of natural components [6,7].

This review paper provides an overview of diverse marine-based beneficial compounds with great potential as nutraceuticals or application in the food industry that have been in the focus of research in recent years. These include chitin, chitosan, pigments, polysaccharides, and polyphenols from algae, fish oil, fatty acids (FA), essential amino acids (EAA), peptides, gelatin, vitamins, minerals, and dopamine. Not all of them are bioactive compounds *sensu stricto* but they have positive impact on human health because of their beneficial nutritional properties. Many of them have strong biological properties but are prone to deterioration, thus nanotechnology was also reported as a way to protect these compounds and enhance their bioavailability after their application.

2. Marine-Based Beneficial Molecules

2.1. Chitin and Chitosan

Chitin is a naturally occurring polymer with crystalline forms (α , β , γ). α -Chitin is the most stable form of this polymer because it has an anti-parallel orientation of polysaccharide chains [8]. Chitosan ((1-4)-2-amino-2-deoxy- β -D-glucan) is the most common and natural cationic polysaccharide found in exoskeletons of crustaceans, mollusks, insects, and fungi. It is a product of chitin deacetylation, a process that removes acetyl groups (CH₃–CO) from the molecule, which makes the biopolymer soluble in most dilute acids. In the deacetylation process, the amine (NH) groups are released, thus providing chitosan with cationic properties [8]. The main sources of chitosan production are by-products of seafood processing, such as crab shells and shrimp/prawn exoskeletons.

Chitin and chitosan are natural polymers with the same chemical structure (Figure 1). Both consist of a mixture of mainly N-acetyl-D-glucosamine and a small amount of D-glucosamine. Chitin is insoluble in an aqueous environment, while chitosan is soluble in an acidic environment due to the presence of free protonable amino groups present in the D-glucosamine units [9]. Chitooligomers (COS) are the degraded products of chitosan or chitin, which are obtained by enzymatic or chemical hydrolysis of chitosan. Chitosan has three types of reactive functional groups, an anamine/acetamide, as well as both primary and secondary hydroxyl groups in positions C-2, C-3, and C-6, respectively (Figure 1). Amine contents are the main factor influencing the differences in their structure and physicochemical properties.

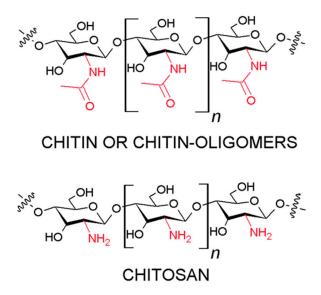


Figure 1. Structure of chitin and chitosan.

The seafood processing industry generates large amounts of by-products and wastes (shells, scales, tails, heads, and guts) that can be a good source of functional ingredients. An example is shell material, which is a valuable source of chitin and chitosan. In this section, the health-promoting properties of chitin and chitosan, as well as their derivatives, are discussed.

2.1.1. Antioxidant Properties

Oxidative stress can cause unanticipated enzyme activation and oxidative damage to cellular macromolecules, leading to a range of health disorders, including many cardiovascular diseases, inflammation, diabetes, neurodegenerative diseases and cancer. Antioxidants, including chitosan, and its derivatives, prevent oxidative damage by breaking the radical oxidation chain reaction [10].

The antioxidant effect of a dietary supplement (high molecular weight (MW) chitosan, trade name: Chitosamin[®], ~100 kDa, 90% degree of deacetylation (DD)) was tested in healthy individuals. The preparation caused a decrease of the lipid hydroperoxides and uremic toxins in the gastrointestinal tract, which contributed to the inhibition of the subsequent development of oxidative stress in the human systemic circulation. Chitosamin[®] can be used as a preparation in the antioxidant treatment of many diseases, e.g., in renal failure [11].

The antioxidant activity of chitosan depends on its MW, DD, and source of origin. Je et al. [12] tested three varieties of chitosan with different MW (5–10, 1–5, and <1 kDa) from partially deacetylated chitosan preparations (90%, 75%, and 50%). The best O_{2-} , OH and DPPH capturing could be observed with the 1–5 kDa chitosan preparation containing 90% deacetylated chito-oligosaccharides. Similar results were obtained by Anraku et al. [13], where high (HMWC; 1000 kDa) and low MW (LMWC; 30 kDa) chitosan were used to study its effect on oxidative stress in normal and metabolic syndrome model rats. High antioxidant activity was observed in rats where LMWC was used in the diet. On the other hand, diets with HMWC decreased the levels of pro-oxidants such as low lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL) in the gastrointestinal tract, thus inhibiting the subsequent development of oxidative stress in the systemic circulation.

Goto et al. [14] investigated the protective and antioxidant effects of surface-deacetylated chitin nanofibers (SDACNF) on the liver in rats. Administration of SDACNF (80 mg/kg/day) for 8 weeks of reduced liver damage and oxidative stress compared to untreated rats.

2.1.2. Antimicrobial Properties

The potential mechanism of chitosan and chitin antimicrobial action is based on the polycationic nature of the biopolymer (i.e., the presence of NH_3^+ groups) which interact with negatively charged surface components of many microorganisms, in turn leading to leakage of cellular substances, and subsequent, cell death [15]. Both lipopolysaccharides in Gram-negative bacteria and teichoic acid in Gram-positive bacteria have an important role in the interaction with chitosan [16]. The greater the number of positively charged amino groups in the structure of a biopolymer, the greater its antimicrobial activity. Chitosan contains a greater number of positively charged amino groups than chitin, and therefore, has higher antimicrobial activity [17]. The antimicrobial activity of chitosan and chitin is influenced by many different factors, i.e., MW, degree of polymerization, pH, and DD [15]. Moreover, the source of chitosan and chitin origin influences their antimicrobial properties. Chien et al. [18] reported that raw chitin from crab shells did not show any antibacterial activity, but after the purification process, it showed activity against *Escherichia coli*. Chitin from shiitake stipes showed better antimicrobial activity against pathogens than chitin from crab shell. The process of chitin discoloration could have an impact on its antimicrobial activity. After cleaning, chitosan from shiitake stipes and crab shells showed good antimicrobial activity against eight pathogens. However, chitosan from shiitake stipes was more effective than from crab shells.

Chitosan is poorly soluble in organic solvents, which may limit its potential use. To adjust the physicochemical properties for specific applications, chitosan's amino and hydroxyl groups can undergo various modifications. Amine groups readily react with aldehydes and ketones to form Schiff bases. Hamed et al. [19] obtained three new Shiff base chitosan derivatives with reactions with a pyrazole heterocycle compound. The chitosan derivatives showed strong antimicrobial activity against E. coli and Klebsiella as Gram-negative bacteria, Staphylococcus aureus, and Streptococcus mutans as Gram-positive bacteria as well as Aspergillus fumigatus, and Candida albicans as fungi. Moreover, the MMT test did not show any cytotoxic activity against normal retinal cells. N-selective chitosan derivatives were obtained: N-methylchitosan (NMC), trimethylchitosan (TMC), diethylmethyl chitosan (DEMC), and carboxymethyl chitosan (CMC). The replacement of the alkyl groups enhanced the antimicrobial activity of chitosan. However, TMC showed the best antimicrobial response against E. coli and *S. aureus*, which may be due to the presence of positive charges on the chitosan skeleton. The results indicate that the quaternary derivative, O-methyl free N,N,N-trimethyl chitosan (TMC), had the best antimicrobial properties and good biocompatibility [20]. Salama et al. [21] synthesized chitosan derivatives having guanidinium functions. Of the four derivatives, N-guanidinium chitosan acetate showed the best antimicrobial activity against E. coli, P. aeruginosa, S. aureus, B. subtilis, and C. albicans, and they reported low minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) values for all the microorganisms.

2.1.3. Anti-Hypertensive Activity

Hypertension causes the development of cardiovascular disease (CVD). In the human blood, angiotensin-I converting enzyme (ACE) contributes to the regulation of blood pressure by converting inactive angiotensin I into its active form, angiotensin II, and this causes small blood vessels to narrow and blood pressure to rise. To prevent hypertension, inhibition of ACE activity may be beneficial [10]. Chitosan derivatives—COS, in particular, showed antihypertensive effects. Their inhibitory effect on ACE is dependent on the DD and MW of the compound [22]. Huang et al. [23] modified COS with -COCH₂CH₂COO- groups. CeCOS strongly inhibited ACE and its activity was comparable to that of Captopril. In addition to ACE, renin also has a significant role in the renin-angiotensin system (RAS).

Renin cleaves plasma angiotensinogen to angiotensin-I, which is further converted by ACE to angiotensin-II. Renin inhibition is a potential antihypertensive strategy. Park et al. [24] prepared 6 types of COS with different MW (10–5, 5–1, and <1 kDa) and DD (90% and 50%). The results indicated that both DD and MW have an influence on renin inhibitory activity. Deacetylated COS (90%) showed a higher renin inhibitory activity than 50% deacetylated COS.

2.1.4. Anti-Allergy and Anti-Inflammatory Activity

Allergies are caused by an interaction between an antigen and the antigen-specific IgE. On the other hand, asthma is an allergic disease characterized by increased respiratory tract responsiveness. Vo et al. [25] showed that with COS with three different MW ranges (1–3, 3–5 and 5–10 kDa), the lowest MW attenuated allergic reactions by inhibiting degranulation and cytokine production in mast cells. Chung et al. [26] investigated the anti-inflammatory effect of LWM COS prepared from HMW chitosan as a result of enzymatic digestion against allergic reactions and allergic asthma in vivo and in vitro. The results indicated that LMW-COS had anti-inflammatory effects related to the regulation of Th2 and proinflammatory cytokines and therefore, may be a promising candidate for the development of a potent therapeutic agent for the treatment of allergic asthma.

2.1.5. Anti-Obesity and Anti-Diabetic Activity

The increase in the number of people with obesity is becoming a global burden on public health. In epidemiological studies, it has been shown that a lower incidence of obesity-related diseases has been observed in populations where seafood is consumed. Certain ingredients in seafood are believed to have a positive effect on the fight against obesity [27]. Chitosan and its derivatives are used in the treatment of obesity-related diseases [27–29]. The use of chitosan in dietary supplementation effectively reduces the level of total cholesterol (TC) and LDL-C in the plasma, and the level of triacylglycerol (TG) in the liver as well as plasma. Lowering the level of lipids in the plasma results from the ability of chitosan to bind dietary lipids and bile acids, and inhibit the activity of pancreatic lipase, thus reducing the absorption of intestinal fat in the gastrointestinal tract [22].

High DD and MW chitosan has higher fat binding capacity than low DD and MW chitosan [30]. Chitosan in tablet form has been shown to be a safe dietary supplement, benefiting human health. The mechanism of action of hypolipidemic chitosan is attributed to its ability to bind to fats, cholesterol, and bile salts. Hydrophobic interactions and hydrogen bonds between chitosan and lipids as well as the electrostatic attraction between positively charged amino groups of chitosan and negatively charged carboxyl groups of FA and bile salts are the cause of chitosan's hypolipidemic effects [30–32]. Azuma et al. [33] applied surface-deacetylated chitin nanofibers (SDCH-NF) in the diets of rats. The oral administration of low molecular weight chitosan increased the levels of ATP and 5-HT in the plasma by activating the intestinal microflora. Their results suggested that the anti-obesity effect of SDCH-NF might be due to changes in the gut microflora population. There are studies in which weight gain reduction in overweight subjects has been confirmed [33–35]. However, it was also stated that chitosan/chitin had only a minor effect on weight loss and is unlikely to be of clinical relevance [36].

A recent study investigated the effect of low molecular weight chitosan in the diet of mice with type-1 diabetes. Daily administration of chitosan in the drinking water (0.8%) reduced the levels of serum glucose, urine glucose, and serum triglycerides in the mice leading to a decrease in hyperglycemia, hypertriglyceridemia, polydipsia, and polyuria among the tested animals [37].

2.1.6. Anti-Cancer and Anti-Tumor Activity

Chitosan also has an anti-cancer effect by limiting the growth of cancer cells. The anti-tumor activity results from the potential stimulating effect on the immune system [9] as well as inhibiting angiogenesis and apoptosis from DNA fragmentation [10]. Chitosan (500 kDa, 70% DD) inhibited the activity of MMP-2 melanoma cells. Although the expression level of MMP-2 was not altered, the amount of MMP-2 in the cell supernatant was reduced. This behavior can be attributed to the post-transcriptional effect of chitosan on MMP-2. Direct molecular interaction between MMP-2 (using atomic force microscopy) and chitosan was observed, as well as non-competitive inhibition of MMP-2 by chitosan (using a colorimetric test) [38].

Sayari et al. [39] extracted chitin from the by-products of *N. norvegicus*, and then chitosan was obtained by partial deacetylation of chitin. The biopolymer showed antiproliferative activity against

HCT116 human colon cancer cells. HCT116 cell proliferation was significantly inhibited between 13.5 and 67.5% at 0.5–6 mg/mL chitosan after 24 h of cell treatment.

Resmi et al. [40] extracted chitosan nanoparticles from shrimp shell waste using two successive steps: demineralization and deproteinization. Compared to chemically synthesized chitosan, chitosan NP showed an inhibitory effect on the proliferation of MCF-7 breast cancer cells and minimal cytotoxicity of normal L929 fibroblast cells. El-Naggar et al. [41] used freshwater crayfish waste from *Procambarus clarkii* as a precursor to obtaining chitin, which was deacetylated to obtain chitosan. The chitosan was transformed into chitosan NP and Schiff bases. Cytotoxic activity against three cell lines (HepG-2, HCT-116 and MCF-7) indicated the best anti-tumor activity for chitosan Schiff bases, followed by chitosan NP. Chitosan showed the lowest anti-tumor activity of all the tested compounds. Sedghi et al. [42] prepared nanofibers of chitosan derivatives. The results of the MMT test indicated that the material had good activity against 4T1 breast cancer cells and did not show any cytotoxic effects on normal cells, suggesting a promising application of nanofibers in the prevention of breast cancer recurrence.

2.2. Beneficial Molecules from Marine Macroalgae

2.2.1. Pigments

Among the biological species, marine algae are classified as one of the primitive producers of whole aquatic biomass making them a sources of natural bioactive molecules [43–46]. Several functional metabolites derived from marine algae have shown health benefits [47]. The natural algal pigments (NPM) are often bioactive, particularly from Chlorophyceae, Rhodophyceae, and Phaeophyceae (or green, red, and brown algae, respectively) [43,47]. The NPM synthesized by marine algae can be classified into three essential categories: carotenoids, chlorophylls, and phycobiliproteins [43]. Their stability is dependent on their chemical structures, which can be influenced by several factors, such as oxygen, light, heat, air, and pH [48]. The NPM are also characterized by their photosynthetic roles [47]. NMP have been applied in the food, nutraceuticals, and cosmetics industries [43] due to their antioxidant, antimicrobial, antidiabetic, antimalarial, anticancer, antiviral, anti-inflammatory, and anti-obesity activities (Figure 2) [44,49,50].

Carotenoids are an important class of fat-soluble NPM found in algae biomass and belong to the tetraterpenoids group consisting of a linear polyene chain (C40) [7,47,51]. Based on their chemical structure the carotenoids can be classified as unsaturated hydrocarbon carotenoids, commonly known as carotenes, including lycopene α -carotene and β -carotene pigments and xanthophylls, known as oxygenated carotenoids, such as astaxanthin, lutein, canthaxanthin, β -cryptoxanthin, and zeaxanthin [51,52]. Generally, fucoxanthin and astaxanthin are the most abundant and natural carotenoid pigments produced in seaweeds or marine algae [49]. On the other hand, the stability of carotenoid pigments is mainly affected by the influence of various environmental conditions, which can generate structural modifications due to oxidation, dehydrogenation, and hydrogenation reactions [53]. These NPM are considered to be antioxidants due to their role in the protection of the cells, retinal epithelium and skin against oxidative damages and thus reducing the risk of CVD, atherosclerosis, neurological and other non-communicable diseases (NCD) [7]. In particular, a fucoxanthin-rich fraction extracted from brown algae, Sargassum siliquosum and S. polycystum, was shown to have inhibitory activities on ACE, α -amylase and α -glucosidase, which potentially reduces CVD related risk [54]. Lutein and zeaxanthin extracted from macroalgae protect against macular degeneration [55]. Furthermore, the carotenoid pigments and particularly fucoxanthin can act as antitumor, anti-inflammatory, anticancer, anti-obesity and neuroprotective agents, and can treat rheumatoid arthritis, osteoporosis and diabetic disorders [47].

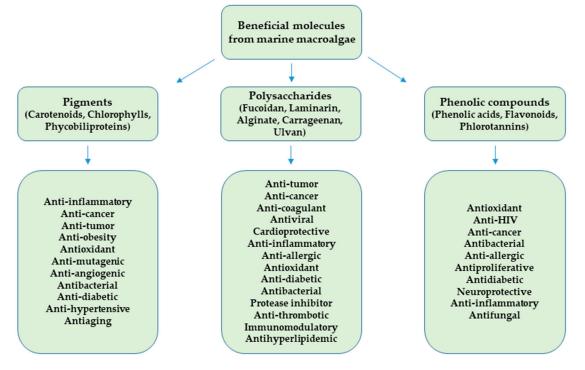


Figure 2. Biological properties of beneficial molecules derived from marine macroalgae.

The other important algal pigments are the phycobiliproteins, which are water-soluble proteins and highly fluorescent compounds synthesized by blue-green and red algae [7,47]. These NPM are classified into the three categories of phycoerythrins, allophycocyanins, and phycocyanins [47]. These photosynthetic pigments have various significant pharmaceutical and health-improving applications, such as their use in histochemistry, immunoassays, flow cytometry, and cell imaging. They can be used for reactive oxygen substances (ROS) detection based on the antioxidant properties when isolated from *Porphyra* sp. [47]. Phycobiliproteins from macroalgae can also be used as natural colorings in chewing gums, dairy products, cosmetics and other products [56].

Another basic NPM isolated from marine algae is chlorophyll, which is a tetrapyrrole and greenish lipid soluble pigment. Generally, there are four major categories of chlorophylls found in marine algae: chlorophyll a, b, c, and d [47,48]. Chlorophyll pigments and their derivatives have cancer protective and anti-mutagenic effects [47] and may be taken into consideration for replacing the synthetic pigments that are used in the food industry [57].

2.2.2. Polysaccharides

Polysaccharides are sugar polymers, a biological macromolecule with different degrees of sulfation found in many species of marine algae [5], but also crabs and krill [58]. The polysaccharides isolated from marine organisms are considered safer and less costly than mammalian polysaccharides, thus more suitable for application in drug development, cosmetics, and functional food products [59]. Alginates, carrageenan, fucoidan, agar, furcelleran, ascophyllan, laminarin, polyuronides carrageenan, agar-agar, fucanoids, chitin and chitosan are marine-origin bioactive polysaccharides with anti-tumor, anti-coagulant, anti-virus, cardioprotective, anti-inflammatory, anti-allergic, anti-oxidant, anti-diabetic, antibacterial, and protease inhibitor activities [5,58,59]. Marine polysaccharides have antioxidant capacity through their scavenging of ROS [1].

The composition of polysaccharides in marine algae, the most important source of non-animal sulfated polysaccharides, varies according to the season, species, and geographic location [60]. The major sulfated polysaccharides found in brown algae include fucoidan, laminarin, and alginate, while carrageenan and ulvan are found in red and green algae, respectively.

Fucoidan is a sulfated polysaccharide found in the cell wall of brown macroalgae that has been studied for its biological activities [61]. Fucoidan's structural complexity ranges from the basic structure that contains sulfate groups attached to fucose units to macromolecules containing a range of different monosaccharide units such as mannose, galactose, glucose, and xylose. This complexity depends on various factors such as species, harvesting time, and environmental conditions [62]. Fucoidan extracts have regulatory approvals for use in foods and dietary supplements for consumption up to 250 mg/day [63]. Anticancer effects of fucoidans on different cancer cell lines have been reported including inducing apoptosis in 5637 human bladder cancer cells [64], in human breast (MCF-7) and colon cancer cell (HCT15) lines [65], and the colon cancer adenocarcinoma (Caco-2) cell line [66]. Fucoidans from brown algae also have an inhibitory role in colony formation in human melanoma and colon cancer cells [67].

Laminarin is a brown algal polysaccharide with a low MW (~5 kDa). It is found in *Laminaria* and *Saccharina* species and to some extent in *Ascophyllum* and *Fucus* species. Laminarin is a storage β -glucan composed of (1,3)- β -D-glucan and some β -(1,6)-intrachain links [61,68]. Recently, laminarin's anti-cancer effects were reported, including enhanced apoptotic cellular death, angiogenic potential inhibition, and colony formation inhibition [69]. Other than anticancer effects, laminarin from *Cystoseira barbata* (5% cream) significantly enhanced the in vivo healing process, improved wound contraction, accelerated re-epithelization, and allowed restitution of mice skin tissue [70]. Also, photo-cross-linkable laminarin-based hydrogels were developed for cell encapsulation and/or drug delivery [71].

Alginate is a linear polysaccharide consisting of (1-4)-linked β -D-mannuronic acid (M) and α -L-guluronic acid (G) monomers, constituting M-, G-, and MG- sequential block structures [72]. It is naturally present in the brown macroalgae cell wall. Alginates are being used in various applications, such as alginate fiber wound dressings, as excipients in drug delivery, as dental impression materials, and preventing gastric reflux [73]. Alginates are also used for food protection, as gelling, thickening, coating, emulsifying, and stabilizing agents in food products [74,75].

Carrageenan is sulfated polysaccharide with high molecular weight that consists of alternating linear chains of α -1,3-galactose and β -1,4,3,6-anhydrogalactose with ester sulfates (15–40%), and it is structural component of red macroalgae cell membranes [76]. It has various biological activities such as anti-thrombotic, anticancer, anti-viral, and immunomodulatory [77]. Due to its gelling mechanism and physiochemical properties, carrageenan is applied in drug delivery, bone and cartilage tissue regeneration and wound healing [78].

Ulvan, a water-soluble polysaccharide, is found in green macroalgae of the order Ulvales (*Ulva* and *Enteromorpha sp.*) [79]. Its main constituents are sulfate, rhamnose, xylose, iduronic and glucuronic acids [80]. Ulvan has shown various biological activities, including antioxidant, antiviral, anticancer, immunomodulating and antihyperlipidemic, and it also has the capacity to modulate cellular signaling processes in plant and animal systems which lead to beneficial effects on productivity and health [81]. Ulvan has also been reported to reduce total serum cholesterol, low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol and triglycerides while elevating high density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol levels [82]. Abd-Ellatef et al. [83] tested ulvan using in vitro bioassays on a human breast cancer cell line (MCF-7) and an in vivo animal model of breast carcinogenesis and found that it had a potential chemo-preventive effect.

2.2.3. Phenolic Compounds

Phenolics can be defined as substances with an aromatic ring having one or more hydroxyl groups, including their functional derivatives. Plants contain a large variety of phenolic derivatives including simple phenols, benzoic acid derivatives, phenylpropanoids, flavonoids, tannins, stilbenes, lignans, and lignins [84]. The phenolics from terrestrial sources have been well studied, but information on aquatic species is limited [2]. The natural production of phenolic compounds in marine organisms is related to environmental factors, such as salinity, UV radiation, nutrient availability,

and temperature [46]. Marine macroalgae phenolics vary from simple molecules such as phenolic acids to highly complex compounds such as phlorotannins (PHT). Some phenolic compounds, such as bromophenols and PHT have been reported exclusively in marine sources [2,46]. PHT, assembled through polymerization of phloroglucinol units, are found in high amounts in brown algae [55]. They can be found in the cell wall or dissolved in cytoplasm and cell organelles [46]. The high reactivity PHT, particularly against oxidation, has increased the interest for food preservation and antiaging products, but also high-value commercial products within the pharmaceutical, cosmeceutical, nutraceutical, and food industries [85]. Phenolics from macroalgae are considered natural anti-allergic compounds for allergy remission [86], as functional ingredients in pharmaceuticals and foods for the treatment and/or prevention of neurodegenerative disease and CVD [87,88], and as compounds that have potential antidiabetic effects through the inhibition of both α -amylase and α -glucosidase [89].

Besides pigments, polysaccharides, and phenolics, marine macroalgae also contain other beneficial molecules such as fatty acids, proteins and vitamins. Various researchers did in vivo studies on the beneficial effects of algae ingestion in rats. For example, Liu et al. [90] reported that supplementation of *Gelidium amansii* in the diet can improve the increased insulin resistance and hypercholesterolemia induced by feeding high fructose diet in rats. Yoshinaga et al. [91] found that administrating of 1 g of wakame (*Undaria Pinnatifida*) per 100 g diet significantly decreased serum total cholesterol levels and lead to a reduced accumulation of body fat in rats. However, in both studies identification of the components from the algae responsible for the results was not determined.

2.3. Fish Oil

The consumption of marine fish and seafood has been associated with many health benefits, mostly from the uptake of fish oil. Fish oil owe their special properties main to the principally ω -3 FA, which include long-chain (LC) ω -3 PUFA, mainly eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), which have beneficial effects on human health (Figure 3) [92–94].

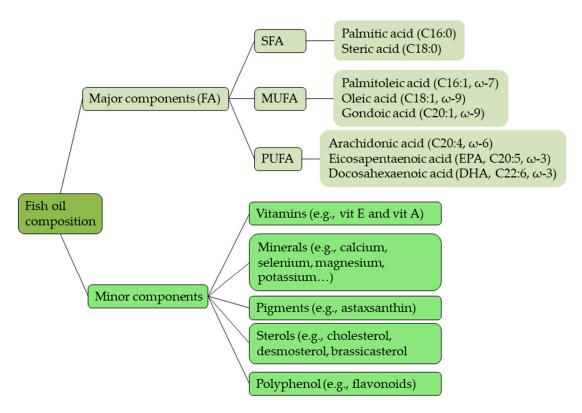


Figure 3. Composition of fish oils.

Fish oil has been used in the food, biomedical, and pharmaceutical sectors. Several studies have reported that fish oil can be used to treat various disorders and prevent the progression of several chronic diseases (Table 1) [95,96]. Fish oil can be used for human consumption either by directly eating fish (and algae) or by consuming different formulations, such as tablets or capsules [92,97]. Previous studies have shown that fish oil enriched with EPA and DHA can be applied in the form of capsules to prevent CVD, by reducing the risk of high TG, hypertension, dyslipidemia, heart disorders, while decreasing blood levels of low density cholesterol [95,98]. The regular use of fish oil capsules can help prevent cancers, especially for patients with progressive cancers [93,96]. Fish oil enriched with ω -3 FA has been recommended to optimize the functions of the human brain, kidney, liver and heart, and hence, to decrease the progression of cardiovascular, hypertension, cancer, neurodegenerative, auto-immune and renal diseases [96,99]. Also, fish oil enriched with LC ω -3 PUFA can reduce the amounts of C-reactive protein (CRP) and pro-inflammatory cytokines, and thus, reduce the risk of inflammatory diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis [95,100,101]. De Souza et al. [102] have reported that the FA of fish oil capsules can be used for the treatment of other disorders, such as type-2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) and obesity, and also to decrease the atherogenic factors, principally the atherogenic index of plasma (AIP) in patients with T2DM who suffer from obesity. Earlier studies have reported that fish oil can be used to lower the risk of Alzheimer's disease [95].

2.4. EAA in Protein Supplement Systems

Proteins have several important functions in living system such as protecting the immune system, the storage and transit of other molecules, and also as catalysts [103]. Marine organisms have bioactive proteins and peptides which also provide EAA. Crustaceans, fish and molluscs are important sources of EAA, such as arginine, leucine, isoleucine, gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA), glycine, glutamic acid, methionine, and phenylalanine (Figure 4) [104–106].

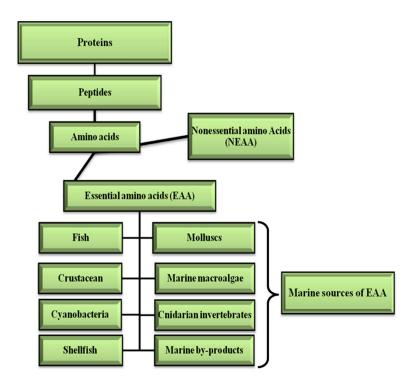


Figure 4. Schematic representation of different marine sources of essential amino acids (EAA), as functional ingredients from proteins and peptides.

The EAA also have antihypertensive, antibacterial, antioxidant, hypocholesterolemic, hypoglycemic, anti-coagulant and immunomodulatory activities (Table 2).

| Fish Oils | | | Functional Substances | Ber | neficial Effects in Human Health and Pharmaceutical Properties | References |
|-----------|-------------|---|--|-------------|--|------------|
| | Fatty acids | - | PUFA: ω-3 EPA and DHA (~40%) | - - - | Anti-cardiovascular Anti-obesity Anti-inflammatory | [107] |
| Krill oil | Vitamins | - | Vitamin A Vitamin E | - | Immunomodulatory Antioxidant | [108] |
| | Pigments | - | Carotenoids: Astaxanthin | - | Antioxidant | [108] |
| Tuna oil | Fatty acids | - | PUFA: ω-3 EPA (7.81%) and DHA (24.56%) MUFA: ω-9 oleic acid | | Anti-cardiovascular (prevention and treatment of hypertension and arteriosclerosis) Anti-inflammatory properties. Prevention of mitochondrial dysfunction. Insulin resistance in skeletal muscle and neuronal cells Reduction of the accumulation of visceral fat Anti-obesity | [108–111] |
| | Vitamins | - | Vitamin A Vitamin D | - - - | Immunomodulatory Anti-oesteomalacia Anti-rickets | [110,112] |

| Table 1. Overview of some research studies regarding fish oils and their potential health b | penefits. |
|---|-----------|
|---|-----------|

| Fish Oils | | Functional Substances | Beneficial Effects in Human Health and Pharmaceutical Properties | References |
|--------------|-------------|--|---|---------------|
| Mackerel oil | Fatty acids | PUFA: ω-3 EPA and DHA ω-6 arachidonic acid | Anti-inflammatory Pro-inflammatory Photoprotective properties. Prevention of erythema Prevention of cardiovascular diseases | [110,112–114] |
| | Vitamins | Vitamin A Vitamin D | Immunomodulatory Anti-oesteomalacia Anti-rickets | [110,112] |
| Salmon oil | Fatty acids | PUFA: ω-3 high levels of EPA and DHA MUFA: ω-9 oleic acid | The decrease of cholesterol and triglyceride in plasma, as well as the amounts both of LDL and VLDL, in normolipidemic subjects. Reduction of risk cardiovascular diseases. Improve the normal brain function and development Anti-hypertensive Prevention of adrenoleukodystrophy diseases | [115–119] |
| | Vitamins _ | Vitamin A Vitamin D | Immunomodulatory Anti-oesteomalacia Antirickets | [108,110] |
| | Pigments - | Carotenoids: astaxanthin | Antioxidant Anti-diabetic Anti-cancer Anti-inflammatory Anti-tumor | [120] |

Table 1. Cont.

| Fish Oils | | | Functional Substances | Beneficial Effects in Human Health and Pharmaceutical Properties | References |
|--------------|-------------|---|---|--|------------------|
| Sardine oil | Fatty acids | - | PUFA: ω-3 high amounts of EPA and DHA MUFA: ω-9 oleic acid | Anti-cardiovascular Regulation of blood cholesterol amounts Promotion of heart health Protection of the arteries walls. Promotion of cardiovascular health Anti-inflammatory Anti-cancer Photoprotective effect Prevention of erythema Anti-obesity | [121–123] |
| | Vitamins | - | Vitamin D | - Anti-oesteomalacia - Anti-rickets | [110] |
| Herring oil | Fatty acids | - | PUFA: ω -3 higher levels of EPA and DHA | Anti-cardiovascular properties. Anti-cancer Treatment of cutaneous infection, melanogenesis and dermatitis. Anti-inflammatory Inhibition of bacterial infection (protection against <i>S. aureus</i>) Antioxidant properties | [112,119,124,125 |
| Menhaden oil | Fatty acids | - | PUFA: ω -3 high levels of EPA and DHA | Immunomodulatory Prevention of coronary heart diseases Prevention of cardiovascular diseases Prevention of lymphoproliferative diseases Treatment of diabetic conditions | [112,126–128] |
| | Vitamins | - | Vitamin A Vitamin D | Immunomodulatory Regulation of phosphorus and Ca Homeostasis | [108,129] |

Table 1. Cont.

| Essential Amino Acid (EAA) | Examples of Marine Sources | Beneficial Effects in Human Health and Pharmaceutical Properties | References |
|----------------------------|---|---|-----------------------|
| Arginine (Arg) | Fish: Caranx ignobilis, Neolissochilus hexagonolepis, Labeo rohita, Tor putitora, Clarias batrachus, Anabas testudineus, Oncorhynchus mykiss Molluscs: Oysters, Box jellyfish (Cubozoa sp.) Cyanobacteria | Antihypertensive, antioxidant and immunomodulatory Enhance of growth, cell division and neurotransmission Role in the mechanism of hormone secretion Treatment of disorders such as anxiety, preeclampsia, and sepsis | [130–133] |
| Histidine (His) | Fish: skipjack tuna (Katsuwonus pelamis), Nemipterus japonicus, Labeo rohita, Stolephorus commersonii, Catla catla, C. batrachu, Cirrhinus mrigala, Anabas testudineus, Amblypharyngodon mola, Rastrelliger kanagurta, Puntius sophore Crustaceans: Charybdis natator Marine macroalgae: Ulva sp., Gracilaria sp. | Tissue repair, role in the growth, protection of the myelin sheaths. Eliminates dangerous metals from the body. Antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties Prevention of risk factors of prediabetes. Treatment of neurological diseases, rheumatoid arthritis, ulcers, malignancies, anemia, atopic dermatitis, ocular system Metabolic regulation and modulation of intestinal cell. | [131,134–136] |
| Isoleucine (Iso) | - Fish: N. japonicus, L. rohita, Catla catla, C. mrigala, A. testudineus, T. putitora, O. mykiss, R. kanagurta, S. commersonii, Thunnus albacares, Stolephorus waitei | Important role in the muscle formation, normal growth and development, synthesis of cellular proteins and production of β-defensins Regulation of diabetes conditions, diver's metabolisms. Stimulation of mitochondrial biogenesis Antibacterial an anticancer properties. | [131,137] |
| Leucine (Leu) | Fish: Sardina spp., K. pelamis, L. rohita, S. waitei, S. commersonii, R. kanagurta, N. japonicus, T. albacares, C. catla, L. rohita, Heteropneustes fossilis, C. batrachus, Siberian sturgeon, Silurus glanis Molluscs: Anadara broughtonii, Mactra chinensis | Anticancer, anti-obesity properties Regulation of the function and activity of lymphocytes. Modulation of gene expression. Improvement of the growth and development of skeletal muscles and small intestine, stimulation of protein synthesis. Treatment of stress conditions, such as trauma, burn, and sepsis. | [130,131,137,138] |
| Lysine (Lys) | Fish: K. pelamis, T. albacores, S. commersonii, C. batrachus, Anabas testudineus, Cirrhinus mrigala, S. sturgeon, T. putitora, Bighead carp, S. glanis Molluscs: A. broughtonii, M. chinensis | Important role in the development and growth. Immunomodulatory. Antitumor, antimicrobial, antioxidant properties | [130,131,134,138–140] |

| Table 2. EAA | obtained from | marine sources | and their pot | tential health benefits. |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| | | | | |

| Essential Amino Acid (EAA) | Examples of Marine Sources | Beneficial Effects in Human Health and Pharmaceutical Properties | References |
|----------------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| Methionine (Met) | - Fish: K. pelamis, T. putitora, Stolephorus waitei, Rastrelliger kanagurta | Treatment of liver diseases, depression, asthma, allergies, alcoholism, copper poisoning, Parkinson, schizophrenia Enhancing wound healing. | [130,131] |
| Phenylalanine (Phe) | Fish: K. pelamis, C. catla, C. mrigala, L. rohita, Grass carp (Ctenopharyngodon idella), S. sturgeon, S. glanis Crustaceans: Shrimps | Regulation of diabetic conditions Development of muscles. Antioxidant activity. | [130,131,141] |
| Tryptophan (Trp) | Fish: Sardina spp., K. pelamis, Thunnus sp., T. putitora | Regulation of neurological system. Important role in the function of neurotransmitters, such as nor-dopamine and dopamine. Treatment of insomnia, depression, pain, seasonal affective, hyperactivity, dysphoric | [130,137] |
| Valine (Val) | Fish: <i>Thunnus</i> sp., <i>Pseudocaranx</i> sp, <i>K. pelamis</i>, C. idella Crustaceans: Shrimps Molluscs: Oysters, Cuttlefish (<i>Sepia officinalis</i>) | Anticancer, anti-inflammatory properties Immunomodulatory. | [130,137] |
| Proline (Pro) | Fish: Thunnus sp., K. pelamis, Salmoninae, Raja sp., C. idella Molluscs: S. officinalis | Modulation of gene expression. Improving the growth of skeletal muscle and also the small intestine. The decrease of excessive body fat. | [130,137] |
| Glycine (Gly) | Fish: Cirrhinus mrigala, Labeo rohita, C. catla, Raja sp., Molluscs: Anadara broughtonii, Mactra chinensis | Regulation and function of neurological system, metabolism mechanisms and gene expression. Antioxidant, anti-cancer, anti-inflammatory and anti-obesity properties. Important role in the protein synthesis. Enhancing the immune system. Treatment of metabolic diseases and diabetes conditions. Prevention of cardiovascular disorders | [130,137,142,143] |

Table 2. Cont.

EAA supplements of "cysteine, leucine, histidine, methionine, proline, hydroxyproline, tyrosine, threonine, trans-4-hydroxy-proline, and valine" showed an antioxidant activity due to radical scavenging activity and lipid peroxidation inhibition [104,144], and help with human homeostasis, principally due to their function in the regulation of various cellular mechanisms and as precursors of other molecules (e.g., nitrogenous bases and hormones) and also as protein building blocks [144].

Some EAA derived from the two mollusks *Rapana venosa* and *Mytilus galloprovincialis* (L.) showed good anti-inflammatory activity [145].

GABA as an EAA produced from marine organisms, such as marine cyanobacteria, is a neurotransmitter inhibitor and can decrease hypertension by decreasing blood pressure. GABA can also stimulate the immune systems to help treat autonomic diseases and depression, and regulate diabetes by its anti-hyperglycemic effect [104,146].

On the other hand, the natural bioactive EAA taurine, which can be derived from crustaceans and mollusks is a " β -amino-sulphonic acid". Taurine has shown several physiological and biological properties in humans, such as the stabilization of cell membranes, helping the development of the retina and central nervous system, and immunomodulatory effects [104].

2.5. Minerals in Seafood for Human Diet

Seafood can be a rich source of essential minerals in the human diet. Although the flesh of fish and other seafood can be a good source of Ca, phosphorus, magnesium, zinc, iron, selenium and iodine [147,148], even higher levels of minerals can be obtained from the seafood industry's by-products.

Ca is the main mineral obtained from seafood by-products, mainly fish bones and shells [149,150]. Ca in shells is usually present in the form of calcium carbonate while the Ca from bones is mostly present in the form of hydroxyapatite or tricalcium phosphate [151,152]. Ca from shells is usually obtained through the process of calcination, during which the shell, which is mostly argonite, is heated to obtain specific structural changes. During heating >500 °C the argonite structure is reorganized into the triagonal-rhombohedral structure of calcite and calcium oxide (CaO) if the temperature is increased to >600-800 °C [152]. The calcinations of fish bones using temperature in the range of 600–1200 °C results in calcium phosphates in the form of hydroxyapatite and tricalcium phosphate. The higher the temperature of calcination the higher the rate of transformation of hydroxyapatite to tricalcium phosphate [153]. Those compounds have a number of health benefits and can be used in tissue engineering scaffolds, implants, dietary supplements or food additives. Both hydroxyapatite and tricalcium phosphate have been used in bioceramics to produce scaffolds for tissue engineering and bone regeneration as well as substrates for coatings of metallic implants [154,155]. Hydroxyapatite can be also a valuable source of dietary supplements for humans, with higher efficiency and tolerability then commonly used calcium carbonate [156] and no observed acute or chronic toxicity in regular and nanoparticle size [157,158].

Although fish bones consist mostly of Ca and P, which constitute >95% of fish bone minerals, various other microelements are also obtained during the preparation process, resulting in a product with potential food supplement applications [159]. Bubel et al. [160] developed a simple method for Ca preparations from cod and salmon backbone containing 24.9–27.8% Ca and 12.5–13.4% P but also relatively high levels of Mg (4.6–6.6 g/kg) and microelements: 3.9–6.2 mg/kg Cu, 11–24 mg/kg Fe, 28–53 mg/kg Mn and 50–57 mg/kg Zn. Even higher levels of Ca (38.2%) and P (23.3%) have been found in tuna bone powder. Aside from those two elements the bone powder also contained relatively high levels of Fe (62 mg/kg) and Mg (4700 mg/kg) [161]. As reported by Flammini et al. [162], boiling hake bones further increased the Ca and P content of the bone powder, while significantly decreasing the Na and K content. Such powder showed good cell bioavailability and resulted in significant improvement of rat bone mineralization, comparable to the improvements observed for commercial supplements.

The bioavailability of Ca from fish bone is correlated with its size and solubility [163,164]. Moreover, reducing the particle size of bone powders to nanoscale can improve the bioavailability even

further [165,166], while the tests with rats showed no observed adverse effect level of nano calcium carbonate [167].

Aside from fish bones and seafood shells, no other seafood by-product is being used as a potential source of minerals. On the other hand, there are a number of fish by-products, such as fish viscera, which might provide a valuable amount of minerals if properly extracted, since the ash content of fish viscera ranges from 7–11% of dry weight [168,169], with high content of Ca, K and Mg [170]. However, there is little data regarding the exact mineral composition of the fish viscera, providing a field for future research.

2.6. Marine-Based Vitamin Sources

Seafood can be a valuable source of all vitamins necessary for the human diet, especially vitamin A, D, E and B₁₂ [171,172] and, in case of some algae even vitamin C [173]. Seafood as a source of vitamins have been thoroughly reviewed [110,174,175], therefore this section will focus on recent results. The seafood lipid fraction is an important source of not only ω -3 FA but also high levels of fat-soluble vitamins [176]. A summary of recent results on seafood-based fat-soluble vitamin sources is shown in Table 3.

| Vitamin | Source | Key Findings | Reference |
|---------|--|---|-----------|
| Е | Crude oil from farmed tuna liver Crude oil from farmed tuna gill and gut Crude oil from sardine heads, gut and fins Crude oil from whole sardine Crude oil from farmed seabass and seabream heads and gut | Significantly lower α -tocopherol in all crude oils then in cod liver oil. Oil from tuna by-products had similar α -tocopherol as tuna liver oil Crude oil from sardine by-products had significantly higher α -tocopherol then crude oil from whole sardines No correlation found between higher α -tocopherol content and crude oil stability | [177] |
| E | Cod liver oil | Refining of crude oil resulted in 31–45% decrease in α-tocopherol | [94] |
| | Oil from rainbow trout heads, bones and tails Oil from rainbow trout intestines | oils then in cod liver oil.oil from tuna by-products had similar α -tocopherol as tuna liver oil Crude oil from sardine by-products had significantly higher α -tocopherol then crude oil from whole sardines No correlation found between higher α -tocopherol content and crude oil stabilityRefining of crude oil resulted in 31–45% decrease in α -tocopherolThe oil extraction temperature did not affect α -tocopherol of different oils The α -tocopherol level in oils ranged from ~90–160 µg/g of oilVitamin E content of 2.2 mg/kgOut of 5 extraction methods of α -tocopherol, solid-liquid extraction with n-hexane showed the best performancehMarket Safter consuming salmon fed with high vitamin D and K. The results were obtained despite using vitamin K ₁ for supplementationOil extracted using d-limonene as biosolvent contained 81 µg of vitamin D ₃ /kg of oilVitamin D <0.05 µg/100 g in both fresh and dried leavesFish oil obtained as part of a zero-waste | |
| | Fresh Caulerpa sp. leaves | Vitamin E content of 2.2 mg/kg | [178] |
| | Rainbow trout flesh | solid-liquid extraction with n-hexane showed | [179] |
| К | Meat of Atlantic salmon fed a diet with high vitamin D_3 and K_1 | resorption markers after consuming salmon fed with high vitamin D and K. The results were obtained despite using vitamin K ₁ for | [180] |
| D | Anchovy filleting wastes | | [181] |
| U | Wakame and combu leaves | | [182] |
| | Pangasius catfish filleting wastes | Fish oil obtained as part of a zero-waste procedure, contained 334 μ g of retinol/kg of oil | [183] |
| A | Fresh Caulerpa sp. leaves | High vitamin A reaching 4810 mg/kg | [178] |
| | Dried Ulva lactuca | Vitamin A below detection limit | [184] |

Table 3. Recent results on seafood-based fat-soluble vitamin sources.

Despite the multiple functional roles of vitamin D in humans, its deficiency has been reported in many different populations worldwide [185–188]. Seafood, mainly oily fish species or fish liver from non-fatty fish, are the main source of vitamin D in the human diet, since it is the only food product,

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other than mushrooms and egg yolk, that have this vitamin at relatively high levels [186]. Special care should be taken when selecting a type of seafood as a source for vitamin D, since many processed seafood products, such as fish fingers (or sticks), do not contain high levels [189]. Some edible seaweeds have high levels of vitamin D_2 , while others, like combu and wakame, have levels below the detection limit (0.05 µg/g) [182]. Fortifying foods with vitamin D has shown positive outcomes in both children and adults [190–192]. However, Jahn et al. [193] indicated that not all products fortified with vitamin D have met with a positive consumer response. To successfully use food fortification as a tool to fight vitamin D deficiency, the following issues have to be addressed: consumers have to have a positive attitude towards the food product, consumers have to see a personal benefit from the fortified food, have cultural appropriateness and have an awareness of the prevalence of vitamin D deficiency in society.

An economically viable option can be to obtain this vitamin in fish oil from seafood by-products. To improve the quality of extracted fish oil, recent studies have used biosolvents such as d-limonene, instead of traditional organic solvents. D-Limonene is nontoxic and can be fully recovered by hydrodistillation below 100 °C [194]. It has been used to obtain high quality fish oil from anchovy filleting waste with a vitamin D_3 content of 81 µg/kg [181,195].

Seafood, especially seaweeds, can be a valuable source of vitamin A [55,196]. For example, *Caulrepa sp.* have high levels of vitamin A (4.8 g/kg) [178]. On the other hand, not all seaweeds are a rich source of vitamin A, as shown by Rasyid [184], who reported that vitamin A in dried *Ulva lactuca* was below the detection limit. Vitamin A can also be obtained from fish and its by-products. Nam et al. [183] used an enzymatic hydrolysis of Pangasius catfish filleting by-products which included head, trimmings, viscera, scales, liver, roe and skin, during a zero-waste procedure to obtain protein hydrolysate, hydroxyapatite and, after additional purification, fish oil with a vitamin A content of 334 μ g/kg of oil. The vitamin A content, however, was relatively low, when compared to the retinol content in an unspecified fish wastes oil reported by Tyśkiewicz et al. [197] (0.70 g/kg).

Vitamin E is commonly associated with four tocopherols and four tocotrienols (α , β , γ and δ). This may, however, be inaccurate, since only α -tocopherol fulfills the definition of a "vitamin", while the other tocopherols and tocotrienols do not prevent ataxia, a vitamin E deficiency symptom [198]. Fortunately, α -tocopherol is the main tocopherol found in seafood products [176].

 α -Tocopherol is often obtained from seafood during crude oil extraction. Having strong antioxidant properties, α -tocopherol is often responsible for better oil stability during storage [199,200]. Although in general low temperature oil extraction yields better stability of fish oil, Honold et al. [201] observed, that different oil extraction temperatures (70 vs. 90 °C) did not affect the α -tocopherol content of the oil extracted from rainbow trout by-products (head, bone, tail and intestine), with the content ranging from ~90 to 160 μ g/g of oil. Crude oils with high levels of α -tocopherol can be obtained from various fish by-products. For example, Simat et al. [177] used tuna gill and gut to obtain crude oils with a high yield of 26.1%, which was an α -tocopherol content of 76 μ g/g. On the other hand, extraction of crude oil from sardine head, gut and fin resulted in a yield of only 9.2% which was 36 μ g/g of α -tocopherol. Therefore, the choice of fish species and type of by-product are important factors to recover high levels of α -tocopherol. Processing of crude oil also negatively affected the α -tocopherol content, as reported by Simat et al. [94] who observed a 31–45% reduction in α -tocopherol content after refining of crude oil from fish by-products. Araújo et al. [179] compared 5 different methods of vitamin E extraction from rainbow trout flesh: Soxhlet extraction, Folch extraction, solid-liquid extraction with n-hexane and with methanol-BHT, and saponification with KOH with magnetic agitation and n-hexane extraction. They determined that the solid-liquid extraction with n-hexane was the most suitable method after further optimization.

The typical recommended daily intake (RDI) for vitamin K varies depending on the source. The typical recommendations are in the range of 55–75 µg/day (~1 µg/kg of body weight/day), however, some sources recommend a daily intake of $\leq 600 \mu g/day$ [202]. Usually fish are not a good source of vitamin K, with its content measured as a sum of K₁ and K₂ usually within the range of 1.8–11.3 µg/kg.

However, there are seafood sources with much higher vitamin K content such as eel (644 μ g/kg) or dried seaweeds (1750–12,900 μ g/kg) [203,204]. Both microalgae and macroalgae have been suggested as a good source for sustainable production of vitamin K₁ [205,206]. On the other hand, fish usually contains vitamin K in the form of menaquinone (K₂) while algae are a source of phylloquinone (K₁) and those two form of vitamin K often show different functions and health promoting properties, therefore algae should not substitute for fish or other animal-based food products as a source of vitamin K, but rather complement it [207].

Graff, et al. [180] have investigated the use of Atlantic salmon fed with a high vitamin D_3 and K_1 diet on several bone formation markers of human subjects with additional Ca supplementation. They found that the consumption of such treated salmon improved more significantly the bone formation markers then in patients consuming salmon fed only high vitamin D_3 . Surprisingly, these results were observed even though the vitamin K was in the form of phylloquinone, meanwhile the positive effect on bone quality is usually associated with menaquinone [202].

Seafood can also be a valuable source of water-soluble vitamins. One of the most important water-soluble vitamins found in seafood is vitamin B_{12} , which can be found mainly in sources of animal origin or algae, with the latter being a potential source of vitamin B_{12} for food fortification and supplementation [208]. Seafood has been found to be the main source for vitamin B_{12} in the diet of adult Koreans and Canadians [209,210]. The dark meat of fish muscle usually contains a few times higher levels of vitamin B_{12} then the light meat. Moreover, fish by-products, such as viscera, are also a potential resource for vitamin B_{12} extraction, since they can contain significantly higher levels of this vitamin then the muscle [211].

Seafood can be a valuable source of vitamins, which are often hard to supply from other food sources. Those include vitamin D or B_{12} . As in case of minerals, the seafood by-products seem to be a potential source of vitamins.

2.7. Dopamine in Seafood as Drug and Supplement

Dopamine (3,4-dihydroxyphenethylamine, DA: Figure 5) is a neuroendocrine transmitter and could also be used as a drug. It has an important role in brain functions [212]. Motivation, dreaming, sleeping mood, punishment, learning, attention, and memory are some of the areas impacted [213,214]. Also, the drugs obtained from DA or its metabolites are being utilized to control clinical disorders (bipolar disorder, Parkinson disease, and different types of addiction, etc.) [215–219]. Besides these functions of DA on brain functions, Pacifici [220] reported that DA could be used to increase blood pressure and urine output as well as for pediatric treatments [221]. The sourcing of DA is potentially important to the drug industry.

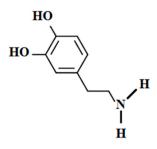


Figure 5. Chemical structure of dopamine.

Cephalopods like squid, cuttlefish, and octopus have black inks, which are composed of melanin, some enzymes (tyrosinase), some amino acids, and DA. Cephalopods could be evaluated as a source of DA although there are some inkless octopus species [222–225]. Squid ink has anticancer, antioxidant, anti-retroviral, and antimicrobial activities as described by Jismi et al. [226]. Palumbo et al. [227] showed that squid ink contains a significant amount of DA. Also, Lucero et al. [228] implied that the concentration of L-DA and DA in squid ink were 1.15 and 0.19 mM DA, respectively. Cuttlefish

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(*Sepia officinalis*) ink is also a good source of DA in various forms. According to HPLC analysis results based on crude ink obtained from the whole cuttlefish, the concentrations of dopa and DA were found to be 2.2 ± 0.8 and 0.06 ± 0.02 nmol/mg of protein, respectively [229]. DA is obtained from L-tyrosine protein-rich foods. Therefore, the concentration of DA in the protein fraction should be measured. In addition to some cephalopod inks, Naila et al. [230] reported that DA could be found in fish, meat, and their products. Thus, these protein-rich foods could be evaluated as options for a person who wants or needs to increase DA levels, i.e., the brain needs tyrosine in protein-rich foods like fish to make DA.

For acute correction of hemodynamics in shock states, a DA hydrochloride and 5% dextrose injection could be used. Use of 800, 1600, or 3200 mcg/mL doses of DA by infusion depended on the patient's body weight from 10 to 100 kg. Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is one of the leading causes of death. TBI has been associated with fluctuations in DA levels [231].

Eating a balanced diet is important for maintaining the DA level in blood. However, if DA is urgently needed, it could be injected. Probiotics, some minerals, vitamins, and fish oil supplements might also be used to help boost DA but have been limited because non-prescription approaches have not been promoted. For example, consumption of squid, cuttlefish or octopus ink soups might be appropriate. Pills with DA produced from squid, cuttlefish, and octopus inks might be beneficial.

2.8. Bioactive Peptides from Marine Sources

Marine organisms such as sponges, tunicates, bryozoans, mollusks, bacteria, microalgae, macroalgae, cyanobacteria, fish, and crustaceans have bioactive peptides with properties such as antimicrobial, cardioprotective (anticoagulant, antihypertensive, antiatherosclerotic), antioxidant, radioprotective, antiparasitic, anti-inflammatory, and anti-cancerous activities [58].

The protein component of fish and other marine organisms and their by-products have ingredients with potentially important roles as functional and medicinal foods that may prevent and/or treat many chronic diseases. Because of the presence of all EAA in significant amounts, the marine macroalgae are a potential source of high-quality proteins with better nutritional properties than terrestrial plants [232]. A number of proteins, peptides, and amino acids from marine organisms can reduce inflammation thus improving the immune system against factors such as bacterial/viral infection, and injury [135,233]. Marine proteins are being studied for anticancer therapy. Evidence of new cytotoxic proteins, such as chondroitin identified from a common marine sponge *Chondrosia reniformis* [234] have been reported.

Bioactive peptides are inactive in their parent protein but can be released when large pre-propeptides are broken down to specific protein fragments and modified to have numerous beneficial effects to improve the physiological functions of the body [5]. The best sources of structurally diverse bioactive peptides with functions such as ACE inhibitory and anti-hypertensive, antioxidative, anticoagulant, and antimicrobial effects are marine organisms. Marine bioactive peptides may be produced by solvent extraction, enzymatic hydrolysis, or microbial fermentation of proteins, resulting in fragments that usually contain 3–20 amino acid residues. Their amino acid sequence determines the biological activity. The molecular size and structural characteristics of peptide mixtures in protein hydrolysates contribute to their bioactivity, and low MW fractions (1 to 5 kDa) in general contain more potent antioxidative peptides [235]. Peptide fractions can be separated using column chromatography to obtain pure peptides [236]. For example, those with a tripeptide sequence at the C-terminal end of peptides with antihypertensive activity contain hydrophobic amino acid. They have been shown to be ACE-inhibitory peptides [130]. ACE causes blood vessels to constrict increasing blood pressure. Commercial ACE inhibitors (benazepril, captopril, enalapril, perindopril, trandolapril, quinapril, lisinopril and moexipril) produce side effects such as coughs, increased blood potassium levels, low blood pressure, skin rashes, headaches, fatigue, fetal and taste disorders [130]. Natural components with ACE inhibitory capacity have become a focus of hypertension treatment studies. The peptide sequence of ACE-inhibitory peptides from marine organisms with strong ACE inhibitor capacity have been studied (Table 4) and their activity described [5,130,237–239].

A cause of many health disorders, such as diabetes, neurodegenerative and inflammatory diseases, and cancer reflect uncontrolled production of ROS that attack macromolecules such as membrane lipids, proteins, and DNA resulting in cellular or tissue level injuries [240]. These health conditions and/or their symptoms can be prevented through the antioxidant effects of functional and medicinal foods [232]. Lipid oxidation is also a major cause of food quality deterioration that leads to rancidity and formation of undesirable lipid peroxidation products, such as malondialdehyde. Oxidation decreases both the sensory and nutritive quality of foods. Lipid oxidation has long been recognized as a major problem during the handling, processing, and distribution of PUFA-rich foods. Natural antioxidants may serve as an alternative to the synthetic antioxidants (propyl gallate, butylated hydroxytoluene, butylated hydroxyanisole, and tert-butylhydroquinone) used to control lipid oxidation but restricted because of their induction of DNA damage and potential toxicity [1].

Antioxidant peptides have been isolated from a range of marine organisms (Table 4), from the smallest marine rotifer (*Brachionus rotundiformis*) [241], oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*) [234], different marine vertebrates and invertebrates [236], and marine by-products [235,242]. The antioxidant properties of peptides are commonly determined based on different in vitro assays, e.g., scavenging of free radicals (2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl, hydroxyl, superoxide), reducing ferric iron to ferrous, binding of metals (metal chelation), and inhibiting lipid oxidation. However evidence of the in vivo antioxidant capacity as well as cellular studies of peptides are a necessary step before human clinical trials [236]. The biological potential of marine antioxidant peptides with human clinical trials is limited [243].

| Marine Source | Biological Activity | Amino Acid Sequence | Reference |
|--|--|--|-----------|
| Cuttlefish (Sepia officinalis) | ACE inhibitory | Val-Glu-Leu-Tyr-Pro | [244] |
| Flounder fish (<i>Paralichthys olivaceus</i>) | ACE inhibitory | Met-Glu-Val-Phe-Val-Pro | [245] |
| Lizard fish | ACE inhibitory | Gly-Met-Lys-Cys-Ala-Phe | [246] |
| Pacific cod (Gadus macrocephalus) | ACE inhibitory | Gly-Ala-Ser-Ser-Gly-Met-Pro-Gly and Leu-Ala-Tyr-Ala | [247] |
| Shrimp paste | ACE inhibitory | Ser-Val and Ile-Phe | [248] |
| Jellyfish (Rhopilemae sculentum) | ACE inhibitory | Gln-Pro-Gly-Pro-Thr and Gly-Asp-Ile-Gly-Tyr | [249] |
| Marine snail (<i>Cenchritis muricatus</i>) | Antifungal activity | Ser-Arg-Ser-Glu-Leu-Ile-Val-His-Gln-Arg | [250] |
| Spirulina maxima | Anti-atherosclerotic activity | Leu-Asp-Ala-Val-Asn-Arg and Met-Met-Leu-Asp-Phe | [251] |
| Pyropia yezoensis | Anti-inflammatory activity | Lys-Ala-Gln-Ala-Asp | [252] |
| Skate (Okamejei kenojei) | ACE inhibitory | Leu-Gly-Pro-Leu-Gly-His-Gln and Met-Val-Gly-Ser-Ala-Pro-Gly-Val-Leu | [253] |
| Dulse (Palmaria palmata) | Renin inhibitory, Antihypertensive effect | Ile-Arg-Leu-Ile-Ile-Val-Leu-Met- Pro-Ile-Leu-Met-Ala | [254] |
| Half-fin anchovy (Setipinna taty) | Pro-apoptotic on PC-3 cells | Tyr-Ala-Leu-Arg-Ala-His | [255] |
| Greater pipefish (Syngnathus acus) | Pro-apoptotic on A549 and CCRF-CEM cells | Lys-Arg-Asp-Leu-Gly-Phe- Val-Asp-Glu-Ile-Ser-Ala-His-Tyr | [256] |
| Japanese flounder (Palatichtys olivaceus) | Antioxidative activity | Gly-Gly-Phe-Asp-Met-Gly | [257] |
| Nori (Porphyra yezoensis) | Anticoagulant activity | NH2-Asn-Met-Glu-Lys-Gly-Ser-Ser-Val- Val-Ser-Ser-Arg-Met-Lys-Gln-COOH | [258] |

Table 4. An overview of recent studies on the biological activity of marine-originated peptides.

| 22 | of | 40 |
|----|----|----|
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| Marine Source | Biological Activity | Amino Acid Sequence | Reference |
|--|---|---|-----------|
| Porphyra haitanesis | Anti-proliferation activity | Val-Pro-Gly-Thr-Pro-Lys- Asn-Leu-Asp-Ser-Pro-Arg and Met-Pro-Ala-Pro-Ser-Cys-Ala-Leu- Pro-Arg-Ser-Val-Val-Pro-Pro-Arg | [259] |
| Dulse (<i>Palmaria palmata</i>) Antioxidant activity | | Ser-Asp-Ile-Thr-Arg-Pro-Gly-Gly-Asn-Met | [260] |
| Laver (Porphyra spp) | α-Amylase inhibitory activity | Gly-Gly-Ser-Lys and Glu-Leu-Ser | [261] |
| Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) Fermented anchovies | Anti-allergic activity | Thr-Pro-Glu-Val-His-Ile-Ala-Val-Asp-Lys-Phe | [262] |
| (<i>Ilisha melastoma</i>) sauce (Budu) | Antioxidant activity | Lue-Asp-Asp-ProVal-Phe-Ile-His | [263] |
| Blood cockle (Tegillar cagranosa) | Antioxidant activity | Met-Asp-Leu-Phe-Thr-Glu and Trp-Pro-Pro-Asp | [264] |
| Mackerel (Scomber japonicus) | Antioxidant activity | ALSTWTLQLGSTSFSASPM | [243] |
| Oyster (<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>) | Antioxidant activity | Leu-Lys-Gln-Glu-Leu-Glu-Asp- Leu-Leu-Glu-Lys-Gln-Glu | [234] |
| Marine crab (Charybdis natator) | Anti-inflammatory effect | G-L-G-A-A-V-L | [135] |
| Red scorpionfish (Scorpaena notata) | ACE inhibitory and antioxidant activity | Gln-Gln- Pro-His-Ser-Arg-Ser-Lys-Gly-Phe-Pro-Gly-Pro, Gly-Gln-Lys-Ser-Val-Pro-Glu-Val- Arg and Val-Glu-Gly-Lys-Ser-Pro-Asn-Val | [265] |
| Pearl oyster (Pinctada fucata martensii) | ACE inhibitory | His-Leu-His-Thr, and Gly-Trp-Ala | [266] |
| Spotless smoothhound (Mustelus griseus) | Antioxidant activity | Gly-Ala-Glu-Arg-Pro, Gly-Glu-Arg-Glu-Ala-Asn-Val-Met and Ala-Glu-Val-Gly | [267] |
| Tetradesmus obliquus microalgae | Antioxidant and ACE-inhibitory activity | Trp-Pro-Arg-Gly-Tyr-Phe-Leu, Gly-Pro-Asp-Arg-Pro-Lys-Phe-Leu-Gly-Pro-Phe Trp-Tyr-Gly-Pro-Asp-Arg-Pro-Lys-Phe-Leu and Ser-Asp-Trp-Asp-Arg-Phe | [268] |
| Nile tilapia (Oreochromis niloticus) | Antimicrobial activity | Phe-Ile-His-His-Ile-Ile-Gly-Gly-Leu- Phe-Ser-Ala-Gly-Lys-Ala-Ile-His-Arg- Leu-Ile-Arg-Arg-Arg-Arg-Arg | [269] |
| Sea cucumber (<i>Stichopus japonicus</i>) | ACE inhibitory | Asn-Ala-Pro-His-Met-Arg | [270] |
| (Xestospongia testudinaria) | Cytotoxic to cancerous HeLa cells | Lys-Glu-Asn-Pro-Val-Leu-Ser-Leu- Val-Asn-Gly-Met-Phe | [271] |

Table 4. Cont.

Gelatin from Marine Sources

Gelatin is not a naturally occurring protein. It is, however, one of the most versatile biopolymers, an animal-based protein obtained by thermal denaturation with partial acid/alkaline hydrolysis or enzymatic hydrolysis of collagen. The marine-originated gelatin is primarily composed of crude protein, moisture, and ash, with some carbohydrates. Its properties are different from those from animals sources which has found some suitable applications in the food and pharmaceutical industries, but also for medicinal purposes [272,273]. In 2018 the global gelatin market was estimated at 4.5 billion USD [274], with an increased demand for gelatin from sources other than bovine and porcine. The raw materials commonly used for gelatin production are the bones, skins, and connective tissue of terrestrial animals such as cattle and pigs. The need for new sources of collagen reflect both religious reasons and health issues related to the bovine spongiform encephalopathy outbreak which has led to some consumers needing or desiring alternate sources [275]. Marine gelatins meet many of their concerns. The viscous liquid state of the marine gelatins at room temperature is both a benefit and an issue, good absorption capacity, the survival of enzymatic digestion products in the gastrointestinal tract, enhanced digestibility, and good film-forming properties are the functional properties that mostly are an advantage of marine gelatins in some applications, particularly in biomedical applications and in food uses [272,273,276]. Functional properties of gelatin such as gelling, foaming, stabilizing, or emulsifying ability determine its suitability for many applications in food production, directly or as an ingredient in food coatings, and an active component in packaging material [277]. Some characteristics of marine gelatin, such as gel strength, MW, and melting temperature are lower than those of gelatin from terrestrial species and present a challenge in the industrialization of fish gelatin. Also, there is a difference of gel strength and melting temperatures between cold- and warm-water fish, with gelatin from warm-water fish being more similar to bovine or porcine gelatins [273,278,279]. This is due to the differences in protein characteristics and amino acid composition between cold- and warm-water species as well as a lower hydroxyproline content of cold-water fish [280]. The gel strength of marine-origin gelatin ranges from 98 to 600 g [281]. The composite of a particular gelatin's properties determines the potential applications. Marine-originated gelatins with lower melting points have some advantages in food application. They can be used for microencapsulation of colorants, enhancement of sensory properties of low-fat foods (flavor), as a food emulsifier, stabilizer, and foaming agent [273,282]. Various approaches have been investigated to improve the functional properties of marine gelatins. Gelatin can be modified using transglutaminase to improve gelatin elasticity and cohesiveness of the gels as well as providing non-thermoreversible gels with lower gel strength [283]. Further, if hydrolyzed with papain, fish gelatin may act as a strong antimicrobial agent [284]. The strength of gelatin gels may be increased by non-electrolytes (glycerol, sorbitol, sucrose) while the gel strength and melting point of fish gelatin can be increased by incorporation of co-enhancers such as Mg, sulphate, sucrose, and transglutaminase [285]. Significant improvement in the gel strength and reduction in viscosity can be obtained using ultraviolet irradiation [278]. Jridi et al. [286] showed that gelatin from cuttlefish stops β -carotene bleaching suggesting its importance in food protection from drying and exposure to light and its possible application in the production of food packaging material. The application of gelatin in food packaging would contribute to reducing drip loss, oxygen-induced changes such as lipid oxidation and color changes. Production of edible coatings that may carry antioxidants and/or antimicrobials might prolong the shelf-life including flavor and odor loss during storage and change the mechanical and barrier properties of the films [287,288]. Gelatin does not meet the dietary requirements for proteins as it is nutritionally unbalanced but when combined with other proteins, the expectation is that it functions like any other protein. It can be used to improve the functional properties of food and beverage products and to enhance the nutritional value of food products.

Besides food applications, the properties of marine gelatin can be improved for other uses as well. The addition of phenolic compounds, e.g., caffeic acid, to gelatin from fish scales enhanced its mechanical biodegradability, and cytocompatible properties, thus making the gelatin more effective material for tissue engineering [289]. After being hydrolyzed with pepsin Pacific cod skin gelatin produced two bioactive peptides that showed a strong inhibitory effect against ACE [247]. This enzyme has an important role in the control of T2DM and hypertension. Although the functional properties of gelatin are species-dependent and vary based on the extraction methods, it is accepted as a non-carcinogenic, economical protein compared to many other proteins but significantly more expensive than bovine and porcine gelatin, and biocompatible for many pharmaceuticals. Different biomedical products of collagen and gelatin such as gels, scaffolds, microspheres, and films have been shown to be usefulness in tissue engineering, implants, and wound dressing [272,290].

The use of oral administration, microcryogel injection, and biodegradable scaffolds to promote wound healing at different levels including superficial, deep layer, and systematic levels [272] have been studied. Also, gelatin is used as a wound dressing material and sterile sponge production for medical and dental surgery [291], the main ingredient for both soft and hard gel capsules with an enhance viscosity that prolongs the release from nanoparticles of trapped materials such as drug, vitamins, and minerals [290,292]. More recently, gelatin nanoparticles obtained by nanoprecipitation, were tested for improved mechanical properties such as particle size, shape, and surface chemistry for drug delivery systems [293].

3. Health Benefit of Nano-Based Materials for Bioactive Compounds from Marine-Based Sources

Nanotechnology is defined as an emerging technology enabling the development of sustainable foods and medicines. For example, fatty acid and amino acid stability in fish meat are improved using nanofibers [294,295]. The intake and stability of vitamins are also important and chitosan-based nanofibers and thymol-loaded electrospun chitosan-based nanofibers could be successfully used to provide nicotinamide acid, pyridoxal, pyridoxine and pyridoxamine in fish fillets [296]. EPA, DHA, and EAA like tryptophan, or B group vitamins are important marine-based compounds for human health [110,297]. The use of probiotic bacteria is important in food systems and for human immune systems. Consumption of fish meat coated with nanoprobiotics (*L. reuteri* and *L. rhamnosus*) could provide a different approach. These nanoprobiotics increased the stability of the fatty acids in fish meat [295,298]. On the other hand, algae are good sources of many essential fatty acids such as ω -3 and ω -6 that are important for the immune system [299]. Also, in medical applications, antidiabetic and anti-inflammatory activities of Au nanoparticles obtained from brown algae seaweed were reported by Venkatraman et al. [300].

Nanotechnology applications of marine-based products could be integrated with other food materials having probiotic properties. For example, nanoemulsion technology provided improved physicochemical properties of yogurt enriched with fish oil [301]. Microalgae-based medicines and their biomedical applications could be used to synthesize nano-based materials. For example, nanoparticles with a maximum of 29 and 60 nm diameters obtained from marine fungi like *Aspergillus flavus*, and seagrass like *Cymodocea sp.*, had good activity with anticancer and cytotoxic activities [302,303]. Muthuirulappan and Francis [304] showed that the marine algae product fucoxanthin was safe for humans, and its nanosuspension delivery could enhance the efficacy of supplements. Nanostructures generally provide a larger contact area on the surface of the materials and can provide a good controlled release profile.

Krill are small crustaceans that are particularly abundant in the Northern (Arctic) and Southern (Antarctic) polar seas. Krill oil (KO) is extracted from the Antarctic *Euphausia superba*, the largest of the krill species. Krill is a sustainable source of ω -3 PUFA, including EPA and DHA. While fish oil mainly contains ω -3 PUFA linked to triacylglycerides (TAG), KO contains a significant portion of these FA bound to phospholipids (PL) and phosphatidylcholine (PC) is the most abundant. More than 80% of EPA and DHA in KO are in PC [305,306]. However, it is a relatively high-cost product [307]. Therefore, nanotechnology applications such as nanoparticles (130 nm) may be used to encapsulate KO (*Euphausia superba*) as a dietary supplement [308]. The release profile of KO (1 wt%) from nanoliposomes (217 nm) also showed enhanced oxidative stability. Nanoliposomes could effectively control the release of KO in a simulated gastrointestinal system. These results showed that the nanoform of KO could be used to improve the release profile [309].

4. Conclusions

Marine organisms are becoming attractive sources of compounds that show value beyond the nutritional one. New discoveries of diverse biologically active compounds and the growth of their possible applications in food, functional food and supplement development are receiving more attention. Chitosan, chitin, fish oil, EPA and DHA, EAA, peptides, gelatin, polysaccharides, polyphenols, pigments, vitamins, minerals, and other materials have been characterized by their antimicrobial, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer, anti-tumor, antiviral, antimalarial, anti-obesity, and immunomodulatory properties. Many of these compounds have been used as functional food ingredients or their biological properties have been used to treat/prevent some type of health disorder. They have also been applied in the food industry to enhance the food properties (stabilizer, emulsifier, coating or thickening agent, texture modifier) or to enriched the foods with functional components (ω -3) and allow their application in health-promoting foods for direct consumption.

The global nutraceutical market is rising in constant search of compounds to be applied in the food, beverage and supplement industries. At the same time the consumers are becoming increasingly

aware of the role and benefits of the functional foods and supplements on overall health. Both the search for health promoting compounds from natural sources and the development of new functional products has intensified.

The futures prospective for the use of marine-originated components depend on their bioavailability, development of environmental friendly technologies for their high-yield extractions, preservation from degradation and identification of individual components that can be purified for use in a particular form. The sustainability of marine sources should be considered when they are exploited on the industrial level. Farming and cultivation of the organisms for a particular component and determining the conditions needed for its high yield recovery is a complex undertaking that requires development of new cost-effective technologies. The nanotechnology techniques may be used for the production of nanosystems with marine-based bioactive molecules to protect these functional compounds against degradation. Also, clinical studies are needed, especially for newly discovered compounds to confirm their therapeutic effect, establish their role in health promoting and quantities for daily consummation. These would help the food industry develop functional foods appealing to the consumers.

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