

1 **EVALUATION OF LIPID OXIDATION IN HORSE MACKEREL PATTIES**  
2 **COVERED WITH BORAGE-CONTAINING FILM DURING FROZEN**  
3 **STORAGE**

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10 <sup>1</sup> This centre has implemented and maintains a Quality Management System which  
11 fulfils the requirements of the ISO standard 9001:2000

12

13 **ABSTRACT**

14 Lipid oxidation of horse mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*) patties covered with fish  
15 gelatin-based films containing a borage seed extract was evaluated, including  
16 commonly used analytical indexes (peroxide value, thiobarbituric acid reactive  
17 substances, polyene ratio), as well as determination of volatile compounds, quantitation  
18 of oxidized triacylglycerols and analysis by Fourier transform infrared (FTIR)  
19 spectroscopy, during 240 days of frozen storage and subsequent thawing and 4 days-  
20 chilling. Vacuum packaged-patties and control uncovered patties were also tested for  
21 comparative purposes. Methods applied to evaluate lipid oxidation in extracted lipids,  
22 i.e. peroxide value, quantitation of oxidized triacylglycerols and FTIR, clearly provided  
23 a better picture of the oxidation progress and led to similar conclusions. Film had  
24 protective effects on lipid oxidation of horse mackerel patties throughout frozen storage  
25 and particularly after thawing and chilled storage. Furthermore, as compared to vacuum  
26 packaging, film was similarly effective until advanced stages of oxidation were reached

27 and exerted enhanced protection once samples were thawed and exposed to air oxygen  
28 under chilling temperature; with the additional advantage of increasing the antioxidant  
29 capacity of muscle.

30

31 Keywords: Frozen fish patties, gelatin borage-films, lipid oxidation, antioxidant  
32 capacity

33

## 34 **INTRODUCTION**

35

36 Fatty fish contains high levels of  $\omega$ -3 polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs), such as  
37 eicosapentanoic acid (20:5 n-3) and docosahexaenoic acid (22:6 n-6). Consumption of  
38  $\omega$ -3 PUFAs has been related to beneficial effects on human health, e.g. on  
39 cardiovascular diseases and arteriosclerosis (Shahidi & Miraliakbari, 2004). However,  
40 because of this high polyunsaturated lipid content as well as the presence of potential  
41 activators, such as heme pigments and trace metals (Richards & Hultin, 2002), fatty and  
42 medium-fatty species like horse mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*) are very susceptible to  
43 loss of nutritional quality and shortening of shelf life because of lipid oxidation.  
44 Recently, an aspect of the utmost interest in this context is the evaluation of the  
45 oxidation progress during frozen storage (Medina, González, Iglesias & Hedges, 2009;  
46 Pourashouri, Shabanpour, Aubourg, Rohi & Shabani et al., 2009; Mahmoudzadeh et al.,  
47 2010, Yerlikaya & Gokoglu, 2010).

48

49

50 The main mechanism for lipid oxidation is autoxidation, an autocatalytic process  
51 initiated by formation of radicals in unsaturated lipids followed by oxygen attack  
52 (Frankel, 2005). Hydroperoxides are the primary oxidation products formed and further

53 oxidation, decomposition and polymerization reactions lead to formation of a complex  
54 mixture of intermediate and secondary oxidation products which include a multitude of  
55 compounds. Non-volatile and volatile compounds, of different molecular weight and  
56 polarity, and bearing different oxygenated functions, such as hydroperoxy, hydroxy,  
57 aldehyde, epoxy and ketone functions, are formed. Hence great difficulties are normally  
58 encountered to evaluate the degree of oxidation (Dobarganes & Márquez-Ruiz, 2003).

59

60 Evaluation of fish lipid oxidation is normally based on analytical indexes, peroxide  
61 value (PV) and the 2-thiobarbituric acid reactive substances (TBARS) standing out as  
62 indicators of primary and secondary oxidation products, respectively (Saeed & Howell,  
63 2002; Aranda, Mendoza & Villegas, 2005; Chaijan, Benjakul, Visessanguan &  
64 Faustman, 2006; Quitral, Donoso, Ortiz, Herrera, Araya & Aubourg, 2009; Pourashouri  
65 et al., 2009; Yerlikaya & Gokoglu, 2010). However, such methods provide only partial  
66 information on the oxidative process. In the case of TBARS, additional drawbacks are  
67 that the compound measured, malondialdehyde, is only one of the many possible  
68 secondary oxidation products formed and that other compounds, not resulting from the  
69 oxidation process, can contribute to TBARS values. Changes in polyunsaturated fatty  
70 acids / calculation of polyene ratio is another approach used even though sensitivity is  
71 usually low (Márquez-Ruiz, Velasco & Dobarganes, 2000; Mbarki, Sadok & Barkallah,  
72 2009). Recently, the evaluation of volatile compounds has become an additional  
73 indicator of lipid oxidation in fish samples (Ross & Smith, 2006; Iglesias & Medina,  
74 2008). With respect to instrumental methods, infrared spectroscopy has lately  
75 demonstrated to be a useful tool to monitor oxidative changes in edible oils (Guillén &  
76 Cabo, 2000, 2004), due to the high information content of infrared spectra and the  
77 possibility to assign specific absorption bands to particular functional groups. However,  
78 there are only a few reports dealing with the monitorization of oxidative changes in fish

79 lipids by this method (Guillén, Ruiz & Cabo, 2004; Chaijan et al., 2006). As a different  
80 approach to evaluate oxidation in fish samples, quantitation of total nonvolatile  
81 oxidation compounds and their distribution in oxidized triacylglycerol monomers,  
82 dimers and polymers has proved to be a useful measurement of early and advanced  
83 oxidation stages (Márquez-Ruiz & Dobarganes, 2005; 2006). Even though this  
84 methodology has not been applied to fish muscle lipids so far, excellent results have  
85 been obtained in studies on microencapsulated fish oils (Márquez-Ruiz et al., 2000;  
86 Velasco, Marmesat, Dobarganes & Márquez-Ruiz, 2006; Velasco, Holgado,  
87 Dobarganes & Márquez-Ruiz, 2009).

88

89 The use of antioxidants is an effective way to prevent lipid oxidation in food products.  
90 Synthetic antioxidants, such as butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA) and butylated  
91 hydroxytoluene (BHT), have been widely used to prevent lipid oxidation, but nowadays  
92 the use of natural antioxidants is of growing interest. In recent years, plant extracts and  
93 different polyphenolic compounds have been used to successfully improve the oxidative  
94 stability of seafood products (Tang, Sheehan, Buckley, Morrissey & Kerry, 2001;  
95 Varelziz, Koufidis, Gavriilidou, Papavergou, & Vasiliadou, 1997; Pazos, Sánchez &  
96 Medina, 2005a; Pazos, González, Gallardo, Torres & Medina, 2005b; Medina et al.,  
97 2009). These natural compounds, together with others such as chitosan, lysozyme or  
98 vitamin C, have been also added to biodegradable packaging materials in order to confer  
99 specific attributes, mainly antimicrobial and antioxidant activities, obtaining an active  
100 packaging biomaterial (Gómez-Estaca, Montero, Giménez & Gómez-Guillén, 2007;  
101 López-Caballero, Gómez-Guillén, Pérez-Mateos & Montero, 2005; Bower, Avena-  
102 Bustillos, Olsen, McHugh & Bechtel, 2006; Gómez-Guillén, Ihl, Bifani, Silva &  
103 Montero, 2007). In a previous work (Gómez-Estaca, Giménez, Montero & Gómez-  
104 Guillén, 2009), the incorporation of a borage extract obtained from seeds remarkably

105 improved the antioxidant activity of fish gelatin films with only minor modifications of  
106 the physico-chemical properties of the films.

107 The objective of this study was to evaluate lipid oxidation in horse mackerel patties  
108 covered with fish gelatin-based films added with borage extract obtained from seeds  
109 during frozen storage for 240 days by different methods, including analytical indexes  
110 commonly used (PV and TBARS, determination of polyene ratio), determination of  
111 volatile compounds, quantitation of oxidized triacylglycerols and evaluation by FTIR.  
112 During frozen storage, samples tested included those covered with films as well as  
113 vacuum packaged samples and control samples (neither vacuum packaged nor covered).  
114 Additionally, after frozen storage for 240 days, samples were thawed and stored at  
115 chilled temperature, thus simulating conditions previous to consumption.

116

## 117 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

118

### 119 **Materials**

120 Commercial fish skin gelatin (Bloom 265/285), mainly obtained from warm water  
121 species, was acquired from Rousselot SAS (Courbevoie, France). Borage (*Borago*  
122 *officinalis*, Movera variety) seeds were obtained from Semillas Fitó S.A. (Barcelona,  
123 Spain). All chemicals were of analytical grade and acquired from Panreac Química  
124 (Barcelona, Spain) and Sigma Chemical Co. (Madrid, Spain).

125

### 126 **Preparation of the borage extract**

127 Borage seeds were ground in an electric grinder for 5 min. The ground meal was mixed  
128 with water:ethanol 50:50 (v:v) in a proportion of 20 g/100 mL and the extraction was  
129 performed by continuous stirring in a water bath at 75 °C for 60 min, according to the

130 optimized method described by Wettasinghe and Shahidi (1999). The extract thus  
131 obtained was filtered through Whatman no. 1 filter paper.

132

### 133 **Preparation of the edible films**

134 The gelatin (final concentration in the film forming solution of 4 g/100 mL) was firstly  
135 dissolved in distilled water to a ratio of 4 g/50 mL and a mixture of sorbitol (0.15 g/g  
136 gelatin) and glycerol (0.15 g/g gelatin) was added as plasticizer. After adequate mixing  
137 of the plasticizers, the borage extract was incorporated at a 1:1 ratio (dissolved  
138 gelatin:borage extract) and mixed again (40 °C, 15 min) to obtain a good blend. No  
139 protein precipitation was observed as result of the addition of either ethanol or the  
140 borage extract. The films were made by casting an amount of 40 ml on 12 cm x 12 cm-  
141 square Petri plates, drying afterwards in a forced-air oven at 45 °C for 15 h to obtain an  
142 uniform thickness (~100 µm;  $p \geq 0.05$ ) in all cases.

143

### 144 **Preparation of fish patties**

145 Twenty kg of ice-stored Atlantic horse mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*) were supplied by  
146 a local market. After heading, gutting and washing, minced muscle was prepared using a  
147 Baader model 694 de-boning machine (Lübeck, Germany) equipped with a drum with 3  
148 mm holes. Sodium salt acquired in a local market was added to a concentration of 1 g/100  
149 g muscle and patties of 50-60 g were then prepared manually. Patties were divided into  
150 three batches packed in plastic bags (supplied by Criovac® BB4L): vacuum sealed patties  
151 (V), patties covered with borage-added fish gelatin film (F) and control patties (C; neither  
152 covered nor vacuum sealed). Patties were frozen in a freezer (Frigoscandia, model AGA0-  
153 6373, Helsingborg, Sweden) at -40 °C for 2 hours and then stored at -20 °C. Periodically,  
154 samples were taken out for analyses. After 240 days of frozen storage, patties were taken

155 out of the bags and kept at chilled temperature (4 °C) for 4 days in order to simulate  
156 conditions previous to consumption under air exposure.

157

### 158 **Lipid extraction**

159 Lipids were extracted according to the method of Bligh and Dyer (1959) and the lipid  
160 content was determined gravimetrically in duplicate.

161

### 162 **Determination of lipid classes**

163 Separation of neutral and polar lipids in initial samples was carried out using silica gel  
164 (230-400 mesh; Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO) columns and following the procedure  
165 described by Bandarra, Batista, Nunes and Empis (2001) with slight modifications. A  
166 hexane slurry of silica gel (20 g) was poured into a glass column (16 mm i.d.) plugged  
167 with glass wool. One gram of extracted lipids were dissolved in 10 mL hexane:diethyl  
168 ether (1:1 v/v) and added to the column. Neutral lipids were eluted with 150 mL  
169 hexane:diethyl ether (1:1 v/v) while polar lipids (mostly phospholipids) were eluted in a  
170 second fraction with 150 mL methanol followed by 150 mL chloroform:methanol:water  
171 (3:5:2 v/v/v). The neutral lipid fraction was further separated in a second silica column  
172 using 150 mL hexane:diethyl ether (90:10 v/v) to elute triacylglycerols and 150 mL  
173 diethyl ether to elute a minor fraction containing diacylglycerols, monoacylglycerols,  
174 free fatty acids and cholesterol (Márquez-Ruiz & Dobarganes, 2005).

175

### 176 **Fatty acid composition**

177 Fatty acid composition was determined in initial samples by gas-liquid chromatography  
178 following derivatization of extracted lipids to fatty acid methyl esters, according to  
179 IUPAC methods (IUPAC 1992a,b). Briefly, fatty acid methyl esters were prepared by  
180 base-catalyzed methanolysis of the extracted lipids using 2N KOH in methanol. Then,

181 fatty acid methyl esters were analyzed on a HP-6850 Series chromatograph (Agilent  
182 Technologies, Palo Alto, CA, USA) with a flame ionization detector. Fatty acids were  
183 separated using a HP Innowax polyethylene glycol capillary column (30 m × 0.25 mm  
184 i.d. × 0.25 µm film thickness, Agilent Technologies, Palo Alto, CA, USA). The injector  
185 and detector temperatures were 250°C. Oven temperature was set initially at 180°C and  
186 held for 2 min, then raised to 230°C at a rate of 3°C/min and held for 20 min. The split  
187 ratio was 1:40 and hydrogen was the carrier gas at a flow rate of 1 mL/min. Sample  
188 volume injected was 1 µL (50 mg/mL).

189

#### 190 **Determination of peroxide value (PV)**

191 The peroxide value index was assayed according to UNE standard 55-023-73 (1973),  
192 and the results were expressed in milliequivalents of O<sub>2</sub> per kg of lipids. Determinations  
193 were performed in duplicate.

194

#### 195 **Determination of thiobarbituric acid reactive substances (TBARS)**

196 Samples were analysed by the method of Vyncke (1970), which consists in the  
197 homogenization of the fish muscle with 7.5% trichloroacetic acid, filtration and reaction  
198 with 0.02 M thiobarbituric acid, the absorbance being read at 532 nm. A standard curve  
199 was prepared using 1,1,3,3-tetraethoxypropane as per Botsoglou, Fletouris,  
200 Papageorgiu, Vassilopoulos, Mantis & Trakatellis (1994). The results were expressed as  
201 mg malondialdehyde per kg of patties. Determinations were performed at least in  
202 triplicate.

203

#### 204 **Polyene ratio**



205 Polyene ratio was calculated on the basis of fatty acid composition of samples  
206 throughout storage. Polyene ratio =  $([20:5]+[22:6])100/[16:0]$ . Determinations were  
207 performed at least in duplicate.

208

### 209 **Volatile analysis**

210 Six grams of chopped fish patties corresponding to each sampling point were kept  
211 frozen at -80 °C in a 20 mL vial for volatile analysis. All vials were thawed at room  
212 temperature and an internal standard (2-octanone in acetone) was added. Sample was  
213 inserted automatically through the dynamic headspace injector (TurboMatrix HS-40,  
214 Perkin-Elmer, Waltham, MA, USA) and was thermally desorbed with the trap  
215 headspace. Injector temperature was set at 80°C for 30 min. Chromatographic  
216 separations were performed on an HP-5MS capillary column (30 m x 0.32 mm i.d., 0.25  
217 µm film thickness, Agilent Technologies, Palo Alto, CA, USA). The following  
218 temperature program was used: 44 °C for 10 min, 44 °C to 100 °C at 10 °C/min, hold at  
219 100 °C for 5 min, 100 °C to 190 °C at 5 °C/min, 190 °C to 250 °C at 50 °C/min, and  
220 finally hold at 250 °C for 3 min. Mass spectrometry analysis (Agilent 6890-5973MSD,  
221 Agilent Technologies, Palo Alto, CA, USA) was operated in the electron ionisation  
222 mode and cuadrupole mass filter. The mass range was 30 to 550 amu, ionization energy  
223 was 70eV, and transfer line was 230°C. Identification of the components in each sample  
224 was based on their comparison with those of the library of Mass Spectra (NIST05)  
225 using the HP ChemStation Software (Agilent Technologies, Palo Alto, CA, USA). The  
226 amounts of each compound were expressed as peak areas relative to the peak area of the  
227 internal standard. Analyses were carried out in duplicate.

228

229 **Determination of oxidized triacylglycerol monomers, dimers and polymers.**

230 Quantitative determination of total non-volatile oxidation compounds and their  
231 distribution in oxidized triacylglycerol monomers, dimers and polymers was carried out  
232 by solid-phase extraction (SPE) and subsequent analysis by high-performance size-  
233 exclusion chromatography (HPSEC), according to Márquez-Ruiz, Jorge, Martín-  
234 Polvillo and Dobraganes (1996). A volume of 2 mL of a hexane solution containing 50  
235 mg of extracted lipids and 1 mg of monostearin, used as internal standard, was  
236 separated into two fractions by SPE. A first fraction, comprising the unoxidized  
237 triacylglycerols, was eluted with 15 mL of hexane:diethyl ether (90:10, v/v). The second  
238 fraction was eluted with 25 mL of diethyl ether and included all non-volatile oxidation  
239 compounds, the internal standard, diacylglycerols, free fatty acids and polar  
240 unsaponifiable matter. Efficiency of the separation was checked by TLC using  
241 hexane/diethyl ether/acetic acid (80:20:1, v/v/v) for development of plates and exposure  
242 to iodine vapor to reveal the spots. The second fraction was analyzed in an HPSEC  
243 chromatographic system consisting on a 7725i Rheodyne injector with 10  $\mu$ L sample  
244 loop (Waters, Milford, MA, USA), a Waters 510 pump (Waters, Milford, MA, USA)  
245 and a Waters 2414 refractive index detector (Waters, Milford, MA, USA). The  
246 separation was performed on two 100 and 500 Å PLgel columns (25 cm x 0.77 cm i.d.)  
247 packed with porous, highly cross-linked styrene-divinylbenzene copolymers (film  
248 thickness 5  $\mu$ m) (Agilent Technologies, Palo Alto, CA, USA) connected in series, with  
249 tetrahydrofuran (1 mL/min) as the mobile phase. A Agilent 35900E Interface and HP  
250 ChemStation software (Agilent Technologies, Palo Alto, CA, USA) were used for data  
251 acquisition. The peaks resolved by HPSEC corresponding to oxidation compounds were  
252 oxidized triacylglycerol monomers, dimers and polymers. Determinations were  
253 performed in duplicate.

254

255 **FTIR-Attenuated Total Reflectance (ATR) spectroscopy**

256 Infrared spectra between 4000 and 650  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  were recorded using a Perkin Elmer  
257 Spectrum 400 Infrared Spectrometer (Perkin Elmer Inc, Waltham, MA, USA) equipped  
258 with an ATR prism crystal accessory. The spectral resolution was 4  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Measurements  
259 were performed at room temperature using approximately 25 mg of the extracted lipids,  
260 which were placed on the surface of the ATR crystal, and pressed with a flat-tip plunger  
261 until spectra with suitable peaks were obtained. All experiments were performed at least  
262 in duplicate. Background was subtracted using the Spectrum software version 6.3.2  
263 (Perkin Elmer Inc.).

264

265 **Antioxidant capacity measurement (FRAP assay)**

266 The ferric reducing/antioxidant power (FRAP) assay was used as a measure of the  
267 antioxidant capacity of the muscle, following the method of Benzie and Strain (1996).  
268 The method is based on increased absorbance at 595 nm due to formation of the  
269 tripyridyltriazine (TPTZ)-Fe(II) complex in the presence of tissue reducing agents.  
270 Absorbance values were read at 595 nm after 30 min. Results were expressed as  $\mu\text{mol}$   
271  $\text{FeSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$  equivalents/g of muscle, based on a standard curve for ferrous iron  
272 prepared in advance. All determinations were performed at least in triplicate.

273

274 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

275

276 The lipid content of the minced muscle was about 1.4 %. Similar values were found in  
277 mackerel from Islas Baleares (Spain) in March 2002 (Gómez-Guillén, Montero, Solas &  
278 Pérez-Mateos, 2005). It is within the usual range for horse mackerel, taking into account  
279 that lipid levels vary seasonally (1.4-7.5 % in Bandarra et al., 2001). Lipids were mostly

280 comprised of triacylglycerols (89.9%), phospholipids accounted for only 3.8% and the  
281 remainder (essentially diacylglycerols, free fatty acids and cholesterol) summed up to  
282 6.3%. Fatty acid composition of total lipids was as follows: C14:0, 2.30%; C16:0,  
283 19.51%; C16:1, 3.79%; C18:0, 8.53%; C18:1, 17.44%; C18:2, 2.03%; C18:3, 0.49%;  
284 C18:4, 0.60%; C20:0, 0.28%; C20:1, 0.77%; C20:4, 0.34%; C20:5, 5.04%; C22:5,  
285 1.98% and C22:6, 22.02%. Values were within similar ranges as those previously  
286 reported for horse mackerel lipids (Bandarra et al., 2001; Eymard, Baron & Jacobsen,  
287 2009). As expected, high levels of polyunsaturated fatty acids (30.46%) were found,  
288 particularly docosahexanoic acid (DHA, C22:6 $\omega$ 3).

289 Crude lipids extracted from horse mackerel were also characterized by FTIR (Figure 1).  
290 Generally, the FTIR spectrum exhibited similar regions of functional groups vibrations  
291 as reported previously for farmed salmon fillets lipids (Guillén et al., 2004), sardine  
292 muscle lipids (Chaijan et al., 2006), as well as for some vegetable oils (Vlachos,  
293 Skopelitis, Psaroudaki, Konstantinidou, Chatzilazarou & Tegou, 2006), although slight  
294 differences were observed in the frequency values at which some main IR-absorption  
295 bands appeared. The weak band associated with the overtone of the glyceride ester  
296 carbonyl absorption showed a maximum absorbance near 3473 cm<sup>-1</sup> (near 3470 cm<sup>-1</sup> in  
297 salmon lipid). The peak at 3012 cm<sup>-1</sup>, related to the C-H stretching vibration of the *cis*-  
298 double bond (=CH), appeared at the same wavenumber in salmon lipids (Guillén et al.,  
299 2004). Two main peaks at 2922 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 2853 cm<sup>-1</sup> (2925 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 2854 cm<sup>-1</sup> in salmon  
300 lipids) were attributed to the symmetric and asymmetric stretching vibration of the  
301 aliphatic CH<sub>2</sub> group. The stretching vibration band assignable to the C=O group of  
302 triglycerides was found at around 1743 cm<sup>-1</sup>, whereas values of 1746 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1741 cm<sup>-1</sup>  
303 were reported in salmon and in sardine lipids, respectively (Guillén et al., 2004;  
304 Chaijan et al., 2006). As described for salmon and sardine, a small band was visible at  
305 1655 cm<sup>-1</sup>, assignable to C=C stretching vibration of *cis*-olefins. The bands associated

306 with the fingerprint region at frequency values below  $1600\text{ cm}^{-1}$  were, generally  
307 speaking, similar to those reported for lipids from different sources. However, it should  
308 be noted that the peak at  $1147\text{ cm}^{-1}$  was reported to appear at higher wavenumbers in  
309 salmon lipids ( $1160\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) (Guillén et al., 2004) and also in vegetable oils ( $1163\text{ cm}^{-1}$ )  
310 (Vlachos et al., 2006). The deconvolution of this band showed that it was the result of  
311 the overlapping of several minor peaks appearing between  $1167$  and  $1143\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (data not  
312 shown). According to Guillén and Cabo (1997), the peaks at  $1236$  and  $1147\text{ cm}^{-1}$  would  
313 be associated with the stretching vibration of the C-O ester group and with the bending  
314 vibration of the  $\text{CH}_2$  group, both related to the proportion of saturated acyl groups in oil  
315 samples.

316

317 Figure 2 shows evolution of **peroxide values** in lipid samples extracted from patties  
318 during frozen storage. The last sample corresponds to 4-days chilling following 240  
319 days of frozen storage. Initial values were very low ( $3.6\text{ meq O}_2/\text{kg}$  on average). During  
320 frozen storage, values were generally much greater for C at all sampling points, while  
321 similar values were found for V and F up to 120 days, thus showing that the protective  
322 effect of the film was comparable to that of vacuum. At 180 days, PV of F increased  
323 considerably and, after that, PV tended to decrease in C and F as a consequence of  
324 formation of secondary oxidation products. Exceptionally, PV of V, which had  
325 remained at low levels during frozen storage, increased after thawing and 4 days-  
326 chilling, mainly as a consequence of exposure to air. Peroxide value is a good indicator  
327 of lipid oxidation during early stages and is broadly applied in frozen fish (Saeed &  
328 Howell, 2002; Aranda et al., 2005; Pourashouri et al., 2009; Park, Hwang, Kim & Kim,  
329 2009; Medina et al., 2009). However, as it is clearly reflected in this study, PV does not  
330 provide information once formation of secondary products is favoured and hence is  
331 usually applied in combination with other indexes.

332

333 Figure 3 shows evolution of **TBARS** values during frozen storage and after 4-days  
334 chilling following 240 days of frozen storage. Initial values were very low in all  
335 samples. V gave always the lowest values while C and F showed similar values except  
336 for the first period (15-30 days) when film seemed to exert an antioxidative effect. After  
337 this, TBARS values increased in F and C, reaching the highest values at 180 days.  
338 Sánchez-Alonso, Jiménez-Escrig, Saura-Calixto and Borderías (2007) reported TBARS  
339 values in minced horse mackerel within a similar range (1.5 to 3 mg MDA/kg muscle)  
340 during frozen storage at -20°C. Also, Aubourg, Piñeiro and González (2004) found  
341 similar increases in TBA values of horse mackerel fillets kept at -20 °C (from an initial  
342 value of 0.17 mg MDA/kg fish to 2.37 mg after 12 months of storage). In the present  
343 study, a decrease in TBA values occurred at 240 days of frozen storage, probably due to  
344 thiobarbituric acid (TBA)-reactive substances cross-linking with proteins producing  
345 protein aggregation and toughening of fish meat (Saeed, Fawthrop & Howell, 1999).  
346 TBARS values increased significantly in all the frozen-thawed samples after 4 days-  
347 chilling. In V, TBARS values reached 7.97 mg/kg after chilled storage, a ten-fold  
348 increase was observed as a consequence of the increase in temperature and availability  
349 of oxygen after breaking the vacuum. F and C reached values of 11.87 and 12.53 mg/kg,  
350 respectively; therefore, there was a two-fold increase in comparison with the highest  
351 levels obtained during the frozen storage. Consequently, no protective effect of film was  
352 shown at this point according to TBARS values.

353

354 Figure 4 shows evolution of **polyene ratio**, which is an indirect measure of oxidation  
355 since it reflects the loss of  $\omega$ -3 PUFAs (C20:5 and C22:6) as a consequence of  
356 oxidation. For calculation of such losses, values for the major saturated fatty acid  
357 (C16:0), which remains at initial levels, are considered in polyene ratio. No significant

358 changes were observed in polyene ratio, initially 139, for any of the samples during the  
359 frozen storage period up to 240 days, when a significant reduction was shown by C.  
360 Clearly, polyene ratio was not sensitive enough to detect changes until oxidation  
361 reached high levels, as has been previously reported in fish oil samples (Márquez-Ruiz  
362 et al., 2000). However, it is a useful measure at advanced stages of oxidation, as it  
363 occurred in this study for samples after thawing and 4-days chilling. Both C and V were  
364 significantly more oxidized than F. The drastic drop in polyene ratio in V after thawing  
365 and 4-days chilling, together with the clear differentiation between either V or C and F,  
366 clearly showed that film was highly protective under such conditions.

367

368

369 Table 1 shows the volatile compounds most representative of lipid oxidation in fish  
370 muscle according to previous works carried out in horse mackerel (Iglesias & Medina,  
371 2008; Medina et al., 2009; Eymard et al., 2009). This table includes results obtained at  
372 early oxidation (15 days), advanced oxidation (240 days) and following thawing and 4-  
373 days chilled storage (240+4R). No consistent changes were observed in volatile  
374 formation along the frozen storage period up to 240 days, when a remarkable increase  
375 of heptanal/4-heptenal, 1-octen-3-ol, 2,4-heptadienal and nonanal was found in all the  
376 samples. Furthermore, hexanal and octanal noticeably increased in C whereas similar  
377 values were found in volatiles between V and F, except in the case of 1-penten-3-ol.  
378 The unexpectedly high values observed in F at the beginning of the frozen storage (15  
379 days) in 1-pente-3-ol, hexanal and 1-octen-3-ol, together with the high content of 1-  
380 penten-3-ol at 240 days, may be in part related to the volatile release from the film  
381 and/or the partial retention of volatiles by the film. After thawing and 4 days-chilling,  
382 similar values were found in volatiles between C and F, whereas V remained at the  
383 lowest values for most volatiles selected. The compound 2-methyl-2-pentenal, although

384 detected throughout the frozen storage, showed an increase in all the samples after four  
385 days of chilled storage.

386

387 Table 2 shows quantitation of total **oxidized triacylglycerols** and their distribution in  
388 monomers, dimers and polymers throughout storage. Given that lipid samples were  
389 mostly composed of triacylglycerols, quantitative determination of oxidized  
390 triacylglycerols, thus including virtually all non-volatile oxidation compounds formed,  
391 constitutes a good approach to evaluate the progress of oxidation. During early stages of  
392 oxidation, only oxidized triacylglycerol monomers increased as they are mostly  
393 hydroperoxides (Márquez-Ruiz & Dobarganes, 2005; 2006). Therefore, results found up  
394 to 180 days were consistent with those corresponding to PVs. In fact, high correlations  
395 between oxidized triacylglycerol monomers and PV during the induction period have  
396 been reported elsewhere (Martín-Polvillo et al, 2004). Once oxidation accelerates,  
397 marked by formation of dimers, levels of oxTGM kept on increasing in contrast to PV,  
398 since oxTGM also include triacylglycerols bearing secondary oxygenated functions,  
399 such as hydroxy, epoxy, aldehyde and ketone functions. Before 180 days, V showed the  
400 lowest oxTGM values, followed by F and C. Detection of dimers occurred at 120 days  
401 for C, and 180 days for F, while only after thawing and 4 days-chilling were detected in  
402 V. Formation of dimers and polymers is favoured in highly unsaturated lipids, such as  
403 fish oils, even at low temperatures, due to the high instability of polyunsaturated  
404 hydroperoxides (Márquez-Ruiz & Dobarganes, 2006). For this reason, PV is not as  
405 useful to monitor oxidation in polyunsaturated oils as it is for vegetable oils. Through  
406 concomitant quantitation of oxidized triacylglycerol monomers, dimers and polymers a  
407 direct and complete determination of primary and secondary non-volatile oxidation  
408 products can be achieved, thus allowing to monitor all the oxidation progress and to  
409 obtain an objective, quantitative measurement of the level of oxidation.



410

411 At the end of the frozen storage period (240 days) it was clear that V were scarcely  
412 oxidized (7.3 mg/g of total oxidized triacylglycerols) while C had a considerably level  
413 of oxidation (64.5 mg/g of total oxidized triacylglycerols), including the presence of  
414 polymerized triacylglycerols. As to F, oxidation was much higher than in V (48.3 mg/g  
415 of total oxidized triacylglycerols) but still lower than that of C (64.5 mg/g of total  
416 oxidized triacylglycerols). The influence of thawing and 4-days chilling at air exposure  
417 was outstanding for V since their level of oxidation doubled that of F and even  
418 polymers, absent in F, were found in considerable amounts (14.5 mg/g). Oxidation also  
419 increased substantially (three-fold) in C in contrast to F, which undoubtedly were the  
420 least oxidized samples at this point. Values of total oxidized triacylglycerols at  
421 advanced oxidation points, namely, 240 days frozen and after 4-days chilling, were  
422 consistent with polyene ratios, clearly showing that oxidation level was in the order  $C >$   
423  $F > V$  and  $C > V > F$ , respectively. Clearly, film showed great protective effects under  
424 the most drastic conditions of oxidation (chilling temperature and exposure to air  
425 oxygen).

426

427 Figure 5 shows the effect of frozen storage on selected IR regions taken from the  
428 spectra of lipids extracted from C. The IR-spectra remained practically unaltered after  
429 60 days of frozen storage. However, they exhibited a noticeably increased absorbance in  
430 the region between  $3600-3100\text{ cm}^{-1}$  after 120 days of frozen storage (Fig. 5A), owing to  
431 the absorptions caused by hydroperoxides generated in the oxidation process (Guillén et  
432 al., 2004; Chaijan et al., 2006). The absorbance of this band became less intense at day  
433 180, and practically returned to initial levels at the end of the storage period (day 240),  
434 suggesting the decomposition of hydroperoxide to yield secondary lipid oxidation  
435 products. In contrast to the findings reported in salmon lipids by Guillén & Cabo (2004)

436 or in several vegetable oils by Moya Moreno, Mendoza Olivares, Amézquita López,  
437 Gimeno Adelantado and Bosch Reig (1999) or Vlachos et al. (2006), a reduction in the  
438 degree of lipid unsaturation due to an eventual oxidative process during the storage  
439 period could not be evidenced by monitoring the peak at  $3012\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (Fig. 5B). However,  
440 the bands at  $2922$  and  $2853\text{ cm}^{-1}$  showed a reduced absorbance at days 120 and 180 of  
441 frozen storage. Similarly, the shoulder at  $2955\text{ cm}^{-1}$  was also slightly reduced at the  
442 same sampling time. These findings indicated an appreciable lowering of the  
443 concentration of  $\text{CH}_3$  and  $\text{CH}_2$  functional groups in this sample. Vlachos et al. (2006)  
444 also reported a reduction in the absorbance of these bands as related to oxidative  
445 changes in vegetable oils. Changes in the carbonyl absorption of the triglyceride ester  
446 linkage at around  $1743\text{ cm}^{-1}$  were reported as a main FTIR event denoting lipid  
447 oxidation. A decrease in the absorbance at this wavenumber was visible after 15 days of  
448 frozen storage, however, the more pronounced drop took place at day 120 of storage  
449 (Fig. 5C), showing a clear broadening of the band to lower wavenumbers. According to  
450 Guillén et al. (2004), these changes are produced by the appearance of aldehydes and  
451 ketones, which are secondary oxidation products derived from the degradation of the  
452 hydroperoxides, whose absorbance is near  $1728\text{ cm}^{-1}$  causing overlapping with the  
453 stretching vibration at  $1743\text{ cm}^{-1}$  of the ester carbonyl group of the triglycerides. The  
454 broadening in the frequency range of  $1700\text{-}1726\text{ cm}^{-1}$  largely suggested the formation of  
455 new carbonyls from initial aldehyde and ketone compounds (Vlachos et al., 2006). The  
456 IR-absorbance between  $1743$  and  $1765\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , attributed to the esters of the triglycerides  
457 exclusively, was considerably reduced at these sampling days (120 and 180), indicating  
458 the lowering of these molecules as lipid oxidation proceeded.

459

460 As described above, the peak at  $1655\text{ cm}^{-1}$  was attributed to  $\text{C}=\text{C}$  stretching vibrations  
461 of *cis*-olefins. With the oxidative process, one would expect a lowering of this

462 functional group by reduction of the lipid unsaturation degree. This happened during the  
463 first 60 days of storage (Fig. 5D). However, the spectral region between 1600 and 1680  
464  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  showed a noticeably increased absorbance after 120 days of storage, being less  
465 intense after 180 and 240 days. According to Hayati, Man, Tan and Aini (2005),  
466 spectrum alteration within band 1650-1600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  could be the result of the formation of  
467 conjugated double bonds, whose absorption would be overlapped with that of O-H  
468 bending, also assignable to this spectral region, both signals coming from  
469 hydroperoxides accumulation. These findings are in agreement to the changes described  
470 above in the 3100-3700  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region. The frequency of the bands appearing at  
471 wavenumbers below 1600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  did not show a definite variation as regard to storage  
472 time, however the spectral region between 1280 and 1050  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  was slightly altered at  
473 days 120 and 180 of frozen storage (Fig 5E). The absorbance of the peaks at 1147 and  
474 1116  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  showed a clear tendency to decrease at days 120 and 180. Both peaks are  
475 related to the proportion of saturated acyl groups. Specifically the latter, associated with  
476 the stretching vibration of the C-O group in esters, was reported to be inversely related  
477 to the proportion of saturated acyl groups in oil samples (Guillén & Cabo, 1997). The  
478 observed lowering in the concentration of C-O,  $\text{CH}_2$  as well as  $\text{CH}_3$  functional groups  
479 could be related with the production of dimers and polymers of triglycerides in the more  
480 advanced stages of lipid oxidation.

481

482 From these results, it seems that the main FTIR changes started to be clearly perceptible  
483 at day 120 of frozen storage. However, from day 180 onwards, changes in the main  
484 FTIR events were not clearly consistent with accumulation of lipid oxidation  
485 compounds (Table 2), especially at day 240, were peak absorbances turned towards  
486 higher values. This effect could be attributed to changes in colour and consistency of the  
487 extracted fat becoming eye-visible from day 120 onwards, making difficult a proper

488 comparison in the later stages of storage. Therefore, spectra at 120 days were selected to  
489 compare samples (Figure 6). At this sampling time, C exhibited a noticeable increase in  
490 the absorbance between 3600-3100  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  as well as between 1680-1600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (Fig. 6A  
491 and D), as compared to F and V. As described above, both events could be related to  
492 accumulation of hydroperoxides. C also showed a reduced intensity of the bands at  
493 2922 and 2853  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (Fig 6B) as compared to the other samples, as well as in the  
494 spectral region between 1280 and 1050  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (Fig. 6E), being indicative of the lowering  
495 in the amount of C-O and  $\text{CH}_2$  functional groups. This was in agreement with the  
496 increase in the concentration of total oxidized triacylglycerols, which was only  
497 perceptible at this sampling time in C (Table 2). Similarly, changes in the band at 1743  
498  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  were much more evident in C, followed by F and V (Fig. 6C). These results  
499 confirmed the protective effect of the borage film against lipid oxidation, in a similar  
500 way to the vacuum packing system, at least for the first 120 days of frozen storage.

501

502 When comparing the IR-spectra of lipids extracted from the patties which had been  
503 frozen stored for 240 days (C240, V240 and F240) with those that were subsequently  
504 thawed at this sampling day and chilled stored for 4 days ( $\text{C}_{4\text{r}}$ ,  $\text{V}_{4\text{r}}$  and  $\text{F}_{4\text{r}}$ ), slight  
505 differences could be observed, even though, as already noted, the physical properties of  
506 the extracted lipids had changed. The absorbance at 3012  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , which was higher in  
507 V240, revealed some differences in the level of lipid unsaturation among the studied  
508 samples (Fig. 7A). Whereas both C and V exhibited a decrease in the height of the 3012  
509  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  peak after 4 days of refrigerated storage, F remained practically unchanged.  
510 Similarly, a slight reduction in the frequency values of this band in  $\text{C}_{4\text{r}}$  and  $\text{V}_{4\text{r}}$  was  
511 found, indicating the disappearance of cis olefinic double bonds in these samples, in  
512 contrast to the  $\text{F}_{4\text{r}}$ . Results were consistent with values found for oxidized  
513 triacylglycerols (Table 2). The 1743  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  band did not show definite changes

514 attributable to accumulation of aldehydes and ketones as a result of chilled storage (data  
515 not shown), however, the increased absorbance in the region between 1680 and 1652  
516  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  in  $C_{4r}$  and  $V_{4r}$ , followed by  $F_{4r}$  (Fig. 7B) could be largely related to the production  
517 of conjugated double bonds, as well as *trans* C=C groups. No definite changes in  
518 absorbance or frequency values in the fingerprint region below  $1600 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  regarding  
519 lipid oxidation during the chilling period were observed (data not shown).

520

521 The **antioxidant capacity** of the patties during the frozen storage and subsequent  
522 chilled storage was evaluated on the basis of ferric reducing capacity (FRAP) (Figure  
523 8). Both C and V showed a low ferric reducing capacity at the beginning of the frozen  
524 storage, which remained practically unchanged during the whole frozen storage. This  
525 low antioxidant capacity may be attributed to the endogenous antioxidant system, which  
526 includes compounds such as  $\alpha$ -tocopherol, ubiquinone or glutathione and is largely  
527 consumed with time post mortem (Aubourg et al., 2004; Pazos et al., 2005b).

528 Applying a complex film to a foodstuff can result in migration of compounds from the  
529 film into the food (Chi, Zivanovic & Penfield, 2006). Thus, the reducing ability of F  
530 noticeably increased until day 30 of frozen storage most likely as a consequence of the  
531 diffusion of phenolic compounds from the borage films to the patties, increasing the  
532 antioxidant capacity of the muscle. However, the FRAP values sharply decreased from  
533 day 30 to 120 and remained stable until the end of the frozen storage, probably due to  
534 the role of phenolics in lipid oxidation, which consequently involves a reduction of the  
535 availability of the antioxidant compounds as well as the antioxidant capacity of muscle  
536 in spite of the migration from the films. In fact, the decrease of FRAP values from 30 to  
537 120 days in F is consistent with the formation of significant amounts of oxidation  
538 products from 120 days onwards (Table 2). When comparing the reducing activity of  
539 both C and V frozen for 240 days with those that were thawed and chilled-stored for 4

540 days, only slight differences could be observed. However, around a two-fold increase of  
541 reducing activity was shown in F after thawing and subsequent chilled storage, probably  
542 due to an increase of the migration rate of phenolic compounds from the film to the  
543 muscle. The physical state of fish muscle may affect both the diffusion and  
544 effectiveness of the antioxidant compounds (Medina et al., 2009). At low temperatures  
545 the rate of diffusion is lower due to a higher resistance of tissues to mass transfer  
546 (Ramesh & Duda, 2001). In frozen systems, the non-frozen fraction may be highly  
547 viscous and diffusion may become limited.

548 In a previous work (Gómez-Estaca et al., 2009) ferric ion reducing ability of gelatin  
549 borage-films was evaluated. According to these authors, the incorporation of borage  
550 extract to gelatin films gave rise to a high reducing ability, with FRAP values around  
551 800  $\mu\text{mol FeSO}_4$  eq/g film. The borage extract used in our study was obtained from the  
552 same borage seeds batch, prepared in the same way and incorporated to the film  
553 solution at the same ratio. Therefore, we can deduce that the diffusion of phenolic  
554 compounds from the film to the patties is quite low, both in the frozen and chilled  
555 storage, given the differences between the FRAP values found in the borage films and  
556 the patties.

557

558 Considering all results obtained in this study by different analytical approaches, some  
559 interesting, general considerations and overall conclusions have been attained. First,  
560 difficulties to evaluate lipid oxidation have been clearly reflected in the lack of  
561 consistent comparative results between samples at early stages of oxidation or between  
562 methods which provide measurements of either primary or secondary oxidation  
563 products. This is not strange since methods applied differ greatly in sensitivity and give  
564 information of very different compounds formed during the course of oxidation. It is  
565 important to note that PV, polyene ratio, oxidized triacylglycerols and IR-spectra were

566 determined in extracted oils while TBARS and volatiles were evaluated directly in the  
567 patties, which could have contributed to the different results obtained in some cases.  
568 Advantages of determining TBARS and volatiles directly in muscle include avoiding  
569 time- and solvent-consuming extraction of lipids while, otherwise, the complexity of the  
570 samples evaluated and possible interference sources may add difficulties to  
571 determinations of minor compounds. For example, TBARS is based on detection of  
572 malondialdehyde, which levels are very low (measured as  $\mu\text{mol/g}$  lipid) in comparison  
573 with other oxidation products, such as oxidized triacylglycerols (quantitated as mg/g  
574 lipid) and, if determined in muscle lipids, other compounds can also react with  
575 thiobarbituric acid to give the red chromogen or interfering by forming orange and  
576 yellow pigments (Guillén-Sans & Guzmán-Chozas, 1998; Oussalah, Caillet, Salmiéri,  
577 Saucier & Lacroix, 2004; Alghazeer, Saeed & Howell, 2008). With respect to volatiles,  
578 analysis could be disturbed by the gelatine film or vacuum package, due to compound  
579 diffusion from the film to the patties, thus devaluating the results.

580

581 Overall, it was generally observed, and particularly clear in results obtained in extracted  
582 lipids, that film had protective effects on lipid oxidation of horse mackerel patties, since  
583 F showed lower oxidation levels than C throughout the frozen storage and especially  
584 after thawing and chilled storage. Moreover, the protective effect of film against lipid  
585 oxidation was similar to that of vacuum packaging except at advanced stages of  
586 oxidation during frozen storage, but with the additional advantage of exerting further  
587 protection under conditions simulating preparation of patties for consumption and  
588 providing extra antioxidant activity to the patties.

589

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## 780 **Legends to Figures**

781 **Figure 1.-** Representative Fourier transform infrared spectrum of lipids extracted from  
782 starting horse mackerel patties.

783 **Figure 2.-** Evolution of Peroxide Value (PV) in lipids extracted from horse mackerel  
784 patties during frozen storage for 240 days, and after thawing and 4 days-chilled storage.  
785 Error bars show the standard deviation of two determinations.

786 **Figure 3.-** Evolution of Thiobarbituric acid index values in horse mackerel patties  
787 during frozen storage for 240 days, and after thawing and 4 days-chilled storage. Error  
788 bars show the standard deviation of at least three determinations.

789 **Figure 4.-** Evolution of Polyene Ratio in lipids extracted from horse mackerel patties  
790 during frozen storage for 240 days, and after thawing and 4 days-chilled storage. Error  
791 bars show the standard deviation of at least two determinations.

792 **Figure 5.-** Selected regions of Fourier transform infrared spectra of lipids extracted  
793 from control horse mackerel patties during frozen storage.

794 **Figure 6.-** Selected regions of Fourier transform infrared spectra of lipids extracted  
795 from horse mackerel patties (C, V, F) after 120 days-frozen storage.

796 **Figure 7.-** Selected regions of Fourier transform infrared spectra of lipids extracted  
797 from horse mackerel patties after 240 days-frozen storage (C240, V240, F240) and  
798 following thawing and 4 days-chilled storage (C4r, V4r, F4r).

799 **Figure 8.-** Ferric reducing ability of horse mackerel patties during frozen storage for  
800 240 days, and after thawing and 4 days-chilled storage. Error bars show the standard  
801 deviation of at least three determinations.