

# Pretreatment and Non-thermal Processing Technologies for Quality Maintenance and Shelf-life Extension of Seafoods

Mohamed Tagrida<sup>1</sup> , Suriya Palamae<sup>1,\*</sup> , Soottawat Benjakul<sup>1,2,\*</sup> 

<sup>1</sup>International Center of Excellence in Seafood Science and Innovation, Faculty of Agro-Industry, Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai, Songkhla, 90110, Thailand

<sup>2</sup>Department of Food and Nutrition, Kyung Hee University, Seoul 02447, Republic of Korea.

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## Corresponding Author

E-mail: suriya.pal@psu.ac.th

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## Abstract

The seafood industry faces significant challenges in preserving the quality and extending the shelf-life of its products to meet the demands of consumers for fresh, safe, and nutritious seafood. Apart from traditional pretreatments such as washing, sorting, and deheading, several emerging technologies like ozonized water (OW), acidic electrolyzed water (AEW), and plasma-activated water (PAW) have drawn attention for seafood industry. These innovative technologies not only improve quality of seafood but also effectively reduce contaminated microorganisms and enzymatic activity, thereby delaying spoilage. Furthermore, non-thermal processing technologies, including high pressure processing (HPP), cold plasma (CP) treatment, and modified atmosphere packaging (MAP), offer promising alternatives to conventional heat-based processes. These technologies are characterized by their ability to inactivate microorganisms and enzymes, while preserving the sensory attributes and nutritional value of seafood. HPP and MAP particularly have demonstrated their profound ability to extend the shelf-life of seafood products without compromising their quality or sensorial attributes. Furthermore, the synergistic effects of combining pretreatment and non-thermal processing techniques, have potential to prolong shelf-life and improve safety of seafood products. Thus, the integration of these pretreatments and technologies offers a promising avenue for enhancing the quality and safety of seafood products.

## Introduction

Seafood products are among the most globally traded food items with high value due to their high nutrients and delicacy. Nevertheless, the quality of raw seafood can be deteriorated rapidly caused by various physicochemical alterations, enzymatic activity, and microbial proliferation (Ekonomou & Boziaris, 2021; Gram & Huss, 1996). To ensure seafood safety and quality, it is essential to prevent contamination from hazardous chemicals and pathogenic microorganisms during post-harvest handling or storage (Ekonomou & Boziaris, 2021). Therefore, pretreatment methods are crucial as the starting point for exploring innovative

technologies in seafood production. Among these emerging technologies, ozonized water (OW), acidic electrolyzed water (AEW), and plasma-activated water (PAW) have demonstrated remarkable potential in recent years for microbial inactivation and shelf-life extension of fresh seafoods. These technologies align with the food industry's trends owing to their cost-effectiveness, environmentally friendly nature, and sustainability.

Traditional techniques for seafood preservation include intense heat (such as pasteurization or cooking), salting, drying, rehydration, acidification, and the use of synthetic preservatives (Kipcak et al., 2021; Ozyalcin et al., 2022; Sevim et al., 2023). Since those harsh

processes might cause severe health issues for consumers (Andoni et al., 2021), non-thermal technologies have been adopted for the preservation of food products. They do not rely on high heat or chemical additives to achieve preservation. Non-thermal processes can preserve sensitive nutrients and flavor compounds better than traditional techniques. Moreover, they can help maintain the texture and color of food products more effectively, enhancing their acceptability to consumers. Thus, alterations in the quality attributes resulting from microbial contamination or the usage of conventional preservation techniques can be reduced. Additionally, economic losses can be minimized, and premium-quality safe products can be obtained (Olatunde et al., 2021a). Non-thermal inactivation techniques for food preservation have been extensively studied because of the increased consumer demand for fresh, nutritious, and safe food products with accepted organoleptic quality and an extended shelf-life (Olatunde & Benjakul, 2018). Among the important foods preserved via non-thermal techniques, seafood including fish, crustaceans, and mollusks are the main target commodities. Such products are highly prone to spoilage due to high lipid and protein contents. Consequently, different biochemical reactions and microbial contamination, particularly after catching and the death of these products, occur rapidly. This can lead to a quick deterioration of seafood, hence shortening its shelf-life (Olatunde et al., 2021b). Recently, novel non-thermal preservation techniques including high-pressure processing (HPP), cold plasma (CP), modified atmosphere packaging (MAP), etc., have been intensively investigated (Jan et al., 2017).

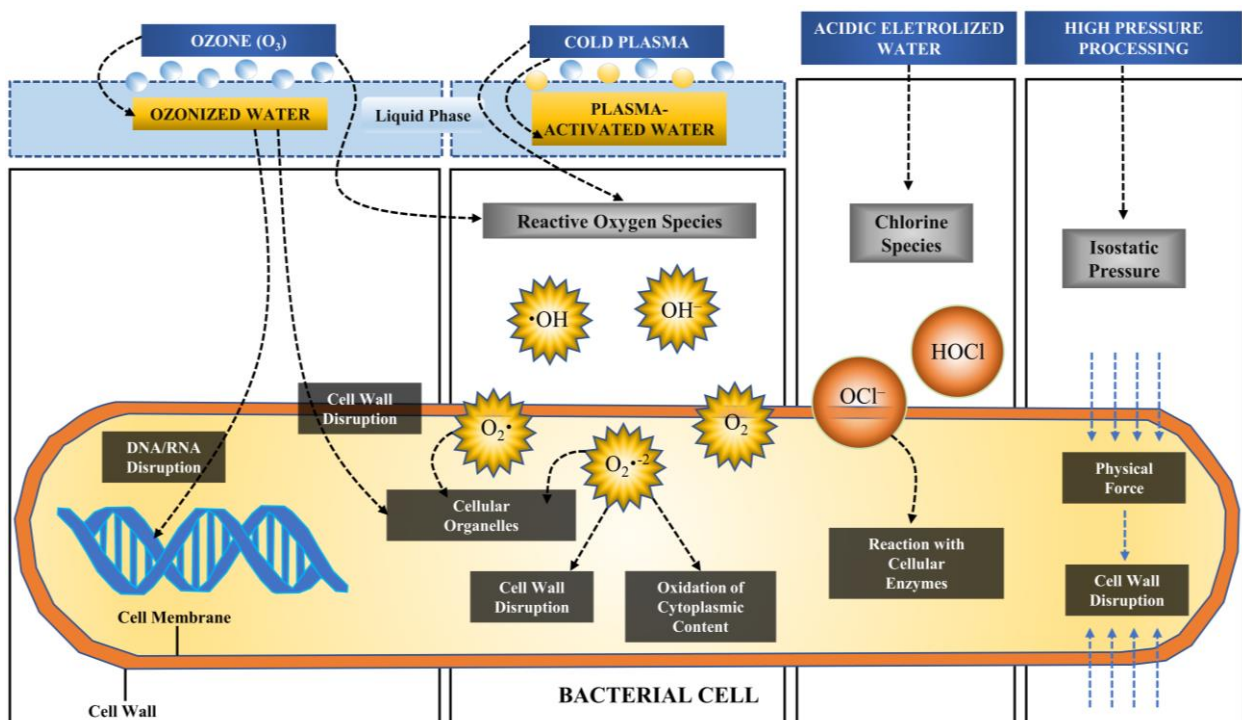
**Pretreatment Technologies for Seafoods**

**Ozonized Water (OW)**

Ozone is an appealing option for seafood processing and preservation due to its rapid antimicrobial action, strong oxidative properties, and natural decomposition into molecular oxygen, without leaving hazardous halogenated compounds in foods (Pandiselvam et al., 2017; Liao et al., 2018). In general, ozone is generated through the interaction of electrical discharge and unadulterated oxygen during ventilation (Güzel-Seydim et al., 2004). The generation of ozone involves breaking the O-O bond in oxygen molecules ( $O_2$ ) to separate into free oxygen atoms (O), resulting in the formation of ozone molecules ( $O_3$ ) (Bocci, 2006; Chawla et al., 2007). Ozone is an unstable triatomic oxygen molecule and subsequently decomposes into hydroxide radical ( $\cdot OH$ ), hydroperoxide ( $\cdot HO_2$ ), and superoxide ( $\cdot O_2^-$ ) radicals. Those radicals have powerful oxidizing properties, which can be applied in food industry (Figure 1) (Blogoslawski & Stewart, 2011; Gonçalves, 2016).

**Antimicrobial Efficacy of OW**

OW treatments have been used for extending the shelf-life of seafood. The use of ozone at 0.6 ppm in a 3% NaCl solution reduced viable bacterial cell counts in the skin of gutted fish. It had the potential to enhance the shelf-life of fish by 20% to 60%, particularly when applied periodically (every 2 days) for jack mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*) and shimaaji (*Caranx mertensi*) fish, respectively (Powell et al., 1979). The use of ozone



**Figure 1.** Antimicrobial mechanisms of ozonized water (OW), plasma-activated water (PAW), acidic electrolyzed water (AEW) and high-pressure processing (HPP).

in distilled water at a concentration of 6 ppm effectively deactivated pathogenic microorganisms such as *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Salmonella* Typhimurium, and *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, resulting in the preservation of the quality attributes of fresh fish. As a result, treated fish could be stored up to one month at 0 °C and 5 °C (Gelman et al., 2005; Nash, 2002). Combining ozone pretreatment with cold storage at 0 °C is therefore an effective method for extending the storage life of fish. Additionally, washing fish with aqueous ozone reduced the microflora without adversely affecting fish quality (Gelman et al., 2005; Ravesi et al., 1988). However, ozone treatments, whether through washing or direct exposure, were found to be ineffective against *L. monocytogenes* contaminated in frozen shrimp. To enhance the efficacy of ozone treatments, it is recommended to treat fresh fish with OW, since bacterial attack occurs thoroughly on fish skin over time (Paranjpye et al., 2008).

### Application of OW for Seafood Preservation

Seafood products pretreated with OW have been demonstrated to have the reduced bacterial counts and extended shelf-life, while maintaining high-quality attributes that meet consumer expectations. Okpala (2015b, 2015a) reported that the adhesiveness, springiness, and fracturability of OW-treated shrimp remained relatively unchanged after storage. Additionally, the hardness of sequentially ozonized water-washed shrimp was consistent, when compared to untreated shrimp, suggesting that washing shrimp with OW had no significant impact on the textural attributes of the shrimp. Moreover, OW washing has been documented to inhibit the activity of proteolytic enzymes, in which textural quality of shrimp could be retained (Zhang et al., 2013). Shrimps subjected to ozone treatment exhibited a slower softening rate, compared to untreated shrimps (Liao et al., 2018). Ozone treatment in seafood processing minimizes washing time and enhances the color of dark-fleshed fish surimi, contributing to the overall quality improvement of the resulting surimi (Chen & Lao, 1997). de Mendonça Silva and Gonçalves (2017) also found that OW pretreatment at 1.5 ppm for 15 min resulted in an 88.25% reduction in microbiological contamination while preserving the characteristic pigmentation of whole tilapia.

### Limitation of OW

Ozone, recognized as a potent oxidizing agent, is commonly employed for disinfecting wastewater and eliminating organic substances as well as offensive odors (Epelle et al., 2023). However, a notable limitation of ozone treatment is its diminished effectiveness in preventing post-treatment contamination since it undergoes reduction with organic matters (Olatunde & Benjakul, 2018). While ozone can effectively reduce

microbial loads before and during treatment, it offers limited protection against microbial contamination after the treatment process due to the short life span (Pandiselvam et al., 2017). Moreover, it can trigger oxidation in seafood, potentially resulting in an undesirable odor and taste for consumers (Manousaridis et al., 2005). Ozone-induced protein oxidation can also lead to a decrease in the protein functionality of seafood, negatively affecting the overall quality of seafood and its products.

### Acidic Electrolyzed Water (AEW)

Over the previous two decades, the usage of AEW has gradually expanded to agriculture and the food industry (Yan et al., 2021). AEW is produced by electrolyzing an electrolyte solution, and the type of AEW generated can vary, depending on the presence or absence of a diaphragm in the electrolytic cell. In a diaphragm-containing electrolytic cell, the electrolyte solution typically consists of chloride salt (usually NaCl) (Esua et al., 2021a). During electrolysis, the negatively charged ions ( $\text{OH}^-$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$ ) move toward the anode, where electrons are released and hypochlorous acid (HOCl), hypochlorite ion ( $\text{OCl}^-$ ), hydrochloric acid (HCl), oxygen gas ( $\text{O}_2$ ) and chlorine gas ( $\text{Cl}_2$ ) are released (Rahman et al., 2016). Simultaneously, water molecules lose electrons at the anode, generating  $\text{H}^+$  ions and  $\text{O}_2$  gas. As a result, the pH of the solution near the anode decreases, leading to the formation of AEW having chlorine ions of at least 20 ppm, a pH below 3.0, and an oxidation-reduction potential (ORP) exceeding +1000 mV (Wang et al., 2022a). In recent years, slightly acidic electrolyzed water (SAEW) with a pH ranging from 5.0 to 6.5 and an ORP between 700 and 900 mV as well as neutral electrolyzed water (NEW) with a pH of 7.0 – 8.0 and an ORP of 750 – 900 mV can be generated using an electrolytic cell without a diaphragm, providing variations of electrolyzed water (Zhang et al., 2021). The widespread popularity of AEW in various food industry is attributed to its environmentally friendly and non-toxicity. It generally does not compromise the quality of food products and presents no hazards to consumers. Additionally, the cost-effectiveness leads to its wider applications in the food industry (Chakka et al., 2021; Esua et al., 2021a).

### Antimicrobial Efficacy of AEW

AEW exhibits potent antimicrobial activity against common foodborne pathogens, spores, fungi, and viruses in both foods and food processing environments, while exhibiting minimal impact on physicochemical and sensory qualities of treated food products (Ekonomou & Boziaris, 2021). Several factors in AEW including chlorine ions, pH, and oxidation-reduction potential (ORP) directly contribute to distinct antimicrobial activity of AEW. High ORP can disrupt bacterial metabolic processes and ATP synthesis by altering electron flow

(Liao et al., 2007). Low pH (<2.6) sensitizes the outer membrane of bacterial cells, allowing hypochlorous acid (HOCl) to enter and inhibit glucose oxidation through the oxidation of sulfhydryl groups in carbohydrate metabolism enzymes (Luo and Oh, 2015). Chlorine and reactive oxygen species (ROS) can disrupt microbial cell membranes and induce DNA oxidation, resulting in reduced microbial growth (Park et al., 2004). This effect is associated with the formation of hypochlorous acid (HOCl) and the low pH of AEW, which damage microbial cell membranes (Figure 1) (Veasey & Muriana, 2016). Various AEW with elevated ORP and chlorine concentrations (10–50 mg/L), could inhibit some common foodborne pathogens found in seafoods and processing environments, including *E. coli* O104:H4, *L. monocytogenes*, *A. hydrophila*, *V. parahaemolyticus*, and *Campylobacter jejuni*, particularly those found in aqua-cultured bivalves to some extent (Al-Qadiri et al., 2016; Ovissipour et al., 2013; Palamae et al., 2023). Therefore, combination of AEW with mild thermal treatments at varying temperatures and durations has been explored to reduce *L. monocytogenes* in Atlantic salmon (*S. salar*). For instance, an application of NEW at 65 °C for 10 min led to a substantial reduction of *L. monocytogenes* counts by 5.60 log CFU/g (Ovissipour et al., 2018). Additionally, the combination of AEW (pH 2.7; ORP 1150 mV; free chlorine 60 ppm) with mild heating (40 °C for 10 min) resulted in significant reductions of *L. monocytogenes* retaining on the surface of cold-smoked salmon fillets to 2.85 log CFU/g (Ghorban Shiroodi et al., 2016). For shrimps inoculated with *V. parahaemolyticus*, pretreatment using basic electrolyzed water (BEW) followed by treatment with AEW at 50 °C for 5 min and 1 min, respectively, demonstrated the most significant antimicrobial activity against the pathogens (Xie et al., 2012). Increased reductions in microbial populations were observed with higher temperatures, potentially due to variations in microbial cell physicochemical characteristics that facilitated EW entry into the cells (Fabrizio & Cutter, 2003).

### Application of AEW for Seafood Preservation

Various types of AEW have shown significant antimicrobial effectiveness in pretreating seafoods and their products to ensure food safety. Nevertheless, the balance between the retention of quality and sensory attributes must be considered. The use of AEW ice has been demonstrated to have the potential as a post-harvest treatment for preserving the quality of shrimp (*L. vannamei*), highlighting its positive impact on seafood quality (Wang et al., 2014). To maintain shrimp quality, AEW ice exhibited bactericidal effects on TVC, reduced the formation of total volatile basic nitrogen (TVB-N), and decreased polyphenol oxidase (PPO) activity in raw shrimp during a 6-day storage period (Lin et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2014). Similarly, lower TVB-N, trimethylamine (TMA), and thiobarbituric acid reactive substance (TBARS) values were reported for raw puffer

fish (*Takifugu obscurus*) stored at 4°C after treatment with weakly acidic electrolyzed water (WAEW) and MAP (Li et al., 2020). Khazandi et al. (2017) demonstrated that shelf-life of refrigerated Southern Australian King George Whiting and Tasmanian Atlantic salmon fillets was prolonged by 2 and 4 days, when NAEW at concentrations of 15% and 50%, respectively, was used for washing fillets. A variety of electrolyzed waters have been studied for their capacity to preserve the physicochemical and sensory attributes of seafoods (Economou and Boziaris, 2021).

### Limitation of AEW

AEW treatment alone has shown limited effectiveness in sanitizing raw seafood. Reductions of *L. monocytogenes* counts on raw salmon ranged from 1.1 to 1.3 log CFU/g with AEW treatments for 1 to 10 min (Al-Holy & Rasco, 2015). In some cases, AEW treatments did not inhibit the growth of *L. monocytogenes* on raw salmon kept at 4°C, even with a 5-min immersion (McCarthy & Burkhardt, 2012). Longer AEW treatments, such as 64 min on salmon fillets, only resulted in reductions of *L. monocytogenes* counts by 0.8 to 1.1 log CFU/g (Ozer & Demirci, 2006). AEW are more effective in reducing microbes on fish skin compared to fish fillet tissue, achieving reductions of 2.0 and 2.8 log CFU/g for carp fillet and skin, respectively, after 15 min of treatment (Mahmoud et al., 2004). The presence of organic matter from the fish may reduce AEW efficiency, as it can react with free chlorine to form combined available chlorine, which has lower bactericidal activity (Al-Holy & Rasco, 2015; Oomori et al., 2000). The raw fish tissue matrix, which strongly attaches bacterial cells, may also contribute to lower bacterial reduction efficacy of AEW (Mahmoud et al., 2004). To overcome these limitations, combining two or more decontamination methods has been suggested to enhance disinfection effectiveness (Rahman et al., 2016; Rasco & Ovissipour, 2015). Palamae et al. (2023) documented that the total viable count and *V. parahaemolyticus* in Asian green mussels were more effectively inactivated with the combination of AEW and sous vide cooking compared to using AEW alone. In another study, AEW depuration combined with HPP effectively eliminated spoilage bacteria and pathogens in blood clams (*Tegillarca granosa*) during cold storage. HPP treatment at 300 MPa for 3 min completely inactivated various bacterial types, with this sample maintaining low bacterial counts to day 9. On the other hand, the samples treated with HPP alone were spoiled within 6 days (Palamae et al., 2024a).

### Plasma-Activated Water (PAW)

In contrast to AEW, the utilization of PAW in seafood processing is a relatively recent development (Han et al., 2023). Plasma is recognized as the fourth state of matter, extending beyond gas, liquid, and solid phases. It consists of a mixture of photons, electrons,

ions, molecules, and free radicals (Pankaj & Keener, 2017). Plasma is generated through the excitation of neutral gas using energy sources such as electricity, radiation, laser, or extremely rapid compression (Punia Bangar et al., 2022). PAW is generated by subjecting water to a nonthermal plasma generated by devices like atmospheric pressure jet devices (APPJ), dielectric barrier discharge devices (DBD), and gliding arc discharge devices (GAD). The interaction of O<sub>2</sub> atoms with water molecules in the gas-liquid interface during nonthermal plasma exposure leads to dissociation and ionization processes. This results in the acidification of the solution and the production of ROS including OH<sup>-</sup> and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (Han et al., 2023). Additionally, exposure to nonthermal plasma generates reactive nitrogen species (RNS) such as NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> and NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> (Esua et al., 2021a). The ROS and RNS species generated in the PAW are responsible for microbial inactivation (Figure 1) (Liu et al., 2021a). They can spread inside the cell, leading to the cellular accumulation of ROS and RNS. These reactive species in the internal environment oxidize and degrade cell components, including DNA, RNA, and proteins (Han et al., 2023). They primarily cause protein denaturation and cell leakage, affecting both spores and cells equally (Critzler et al., 2007). Additionally, they exhibit a synergistic effect with high oxidation-reduction potential (ORP) and low pH, which has been proven to possess antimicrobial activity. A lower pH is more favorable for the reactive species to penetrate cell walls (Sun et al., 2012). ORP is considered an important factor affecting microbial inactivation, as it damages the cell membrane of microbes and their defense mechanisms (Thirumdas et al., 2018). PAW has demonstrated its efficacy in activating microorganisms in various forms, including bacterial suspension (Ikawa et al., 2010), biofilm (Ercan et al., 2013), and spores (Sun et al., 2012). PAW has been reported as a promising alternative method for food decontamination, with the advantage of a prolonged bactericidal effect, depending on storage temperature, making it a valuable candidate for industrial implementation (Zhao et al., 2021).

### Antimicrobial Efficacy of PAW

PAW treatment has emerged as a promising approach for the decontamination of microorganisms and preservation of seafoods and their products. Esua et al. (2021b) observed a reduction in populations of *Shewanella putrefaciens* and *E. coli* by 0.92 and 0.88 log CFU/g, respectively, on grass carp after a 4-min pretreatment with PAW. Increased voltage application during PAW pretreatment enhanced the inactivation effect. Furthermore, the combination of PAW and ultrasound showed more effective for microbial inactivation than PAW treatment alone. It resulted in the reduction of 1.49 and 1.39 log CFU/g for *S. putrefaciens* and *E. coli*, respectively. The use of PAW for 10 min resulted in a reduction of 0.15 and 0.24 log CFU/g in total mesophilic bacteria count and total

psychrotrophic bacteria count, respectively, on raw mackerel fillets. When PAW pretreatment was combined with ultrasound, the reduction in total mesophilic bacterial counts and total psychrotrophic bacterial counts on raw mackerel fillets increased to 0.38 and 0.27 log CFU/g, respectively (Zhao et al., 2021). Additionally, Liao et al. (2018) proposed that PAW ice could serve as an alternative preservation for fresh shrimp. It showed a superior antimicrobial effect to conventional tap water ice, resulting in an impressive extension of the storage for shrimp by 4–8 days. Ultrasound shows antimicrobial properties by leveraging mechanisms such as sonolysis and cavitation, which involve the generation of rarefaction, mechanical shockwaves, and compression (Han et al., 2023). Consequently, ultrasound in combination with PAW exhibited highly effective microbial inactivation, offering innovative approaches to food preservation and safety assurance (Han et al., 2023).

### Application of PAW for Seafood Preservation

Color is one of the most essential aspects of seafood products. Fresh and colorful seafood is a good indicator of freshness and high quality. The maintenance of natural color of seafood is a critical consideration for seafood producers and sellers. In the case of yellow river carp fillets, PAW pretreatment resulted in an elevation of the *L*\* value (lightness) and a reduction in the *a*\* value (redness), with no significant changes observed in the *b*\* value (yellowness), texture characteristics, and sensory attributes (Liu et al., 2021a). Mackerel fillets subjected to PAW pretreatment and PAW-ultrasound pretreatment showed no significant differences in *a*\* (redness), *b*\* (yellowness), *L*\* (lightness) values, and peroxide value. In shrimp, PAW-pretreated samples still had a pH below 7.7 during storage, leading to the delayed changes in color and firmness as well as lipid oxidation. Additionally, the TVB-N value in PAW-treated samples exhibited a significant reduction compared to other treatment methods, and this decrease did not adversely affect the protein content (Liao et al., 2018).

### Limitation of PAW

There have been several documented improvements in the development and application of PAW. During PAW generation, the increased quantities of acidogenic molecules (NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> and NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>), such as nitrous, singlet oxygen, and nitric acids, and their derivatives are produced. When those molecules combine with water, nitric acid is produced and lowers the pH of food (Yong et al., 2015). Lower pH and acidity could determine the processing requirements necessary for inactivation of some microorganisms in foods. Nevertheless, drastic alteration may have an undesirable impact on product texture, flavor, and shelf life. PAW treatment of golden pompano fillets showed a

decrease of  $a^*$  value (redness), which could result from the damage of myoglobin caused by ROS. The ROS and/or RNS derive from cold plasma readily promote lipid and protein oxidation especially from fish and seafood (Olatunde et al., 2019). The combination of polyphenol antioxidant, e.g. coconut exocarp flavonoids, and PAW exerted synergistic effect on the quality preservation of fillets. The polyphenol antioxidant marinating followed by PAW soaking significantly inhibited microbial spoilage, maintained sensory quality, and lowered lipid and protein oxidation (Gao et al., 2024). PAW-pretreated grass carp exhibited the significant increases in lipid oxidation, total volatile basic-nitrogen, and protein degradation. However, these values remained within acceptable limits. Although PAW-ultrasound pretreatment was more effective in preserving hardness, it adversely impacted color of the treated sample (Esua et al., 2021b). Moreover, the limitations of PAW for the use in seafood products in the low bacterial inactivation. As a consequence, it must be combined with other emerging nonthermal technologies to achieve adequate food quality and safety. This comprehensive method can improve the safety and quality of food products by minimizing microbial growth on their surfaces or interior portions (Han et al., 2023).

## Non-thermal Processing Technology for Seafoods

### High-pressure Processing (HPP)

The growing consumer demand for high-quality foods characterized by fresh sensory attributes and absence of additives has driven the advancement of non-thermal food processing technologies as choices instead of traditional thermal processing (Huang et al., 2017). HPP is a non-thermal technique that utilizes high-pressure to inactivate pathogens and extend the shelf-life of food products. The pressure is applied uniformly from all sides, ensuring an effective inactivation of microorganisms, while maintaining the sensory quality of the processed food. During HPP treatment, the food product is exposed to pressures ranging from 100 to 1000 MPa for a short period, typically 2-3 min, and at temperatures between  $-20$  to  $121^{\circ}\text{C}$  (Economou & Boziaris, 2021; Koutchma, 2014). The process involves placing the sealed food product in a pressure vessel filled with a pressure-transmitting liquid medium (usually water), in which all the air inside the chamber is expelled. The pressure-transmitting medium ensures that the pressure is evenly distributed throughout the product. The process is usually carried out in batch or semi-continuous mode using specialized equipment designed for specific types of food products (Koutchma, 2014). HPP is based on the *Pascal* (isostatic) and *Le Chatelier* principles. The first principle asserts the uniform and nearly immediate transmission of pressure throughout food, without regard for its mass, dimensions, or composition. Another principle

highlights HPP's ability to promote reactions, leading to volume reduction, while inhibiting those reactions causes the increases in volume (Medina-Meza et al., 2014). However, the presence of a minimal moisture content is required for effective pressure propagation. This principle, as described by Barbosa-Cánovas and Rodríguez (2002) and Cheftel (1995), states that any process involving a reduction in volume, including phase transitions, molecular conformation alterations, or chemical reactions, is enhanced under elevated pressure condition, while the decreased pressure can minimize these volume-reducing transformations.

### Antimicrobial Efficacy of HPP

The utilization of HPP has demonstrated its benefits in terms of microbiological inactivation. The efficacy of HPP treatment on bacterial inactivation depends on several factors such as the type of microbe, growth phase, applied pressure level, process temperature, and duration (Tao et al., 2014). Generally, increasing pressure, holding time, or temperature lead to greater inactivation of microorganisms. Gram-negative bacteria are typically more sensitive to high-pressure than Gram-positive bacteria (Economou & Boziaris, 2021). Bacterial spores are more resistant, but certain conditions, such as high-pressurization temperatures, can lead to their inactivation (Bhat et al., 2021a). Using HPP within the pressure range of 150–350 MPa has the potential to achieve a significant reduction of *Vibrio* spp. over 3.52 log units, thus meeting the safety standards required for shellfish processing (Roobab et al., 2022). HPP has its capability to effectively control and reduce *V. parahaemolyticus*, a pathogenic bacterium, in Pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*). HPP treatments at 293 MPa for 2 min achieved a reduction of at least 3.52 log units, extending the shelf-life significantly when stored at  $5^{\circ}\text{C}$  or on ice (Ma & Su, 2011). Additionally, HPP at pressure exceeding 350 MPa for 2 min led to an impressive reduction of 5 log units of *V. parahaemolyticus*, highlighting the potential of HPP for enhancing the safety of seafood products (Ma & Su, 2011; Campus, 2010). *Escherichia coli* displayed the resistance to HPP treatments, with reductions ranging from 1.9 to 4.7 log units observed in raw black tiger shrimp when exposed to pressures of 500 MPa for 3 to 9 min. Achieving higher reductions of 4 to 6 log units necessitated more intense HPP conditions, specifically at 600 MPa for 6 to 9 min, as reported by Kaur et al. (2016). The isostatic principle behind bacterial inactivation during HPP treatment is the modifying cell membranes through structural changes in proteins and membrane phospholipids (Figure 1) (Patterson, 2014).

### Application of HPP for Seafood Preservation

Apart from microbial inactivation, HPP has the capability to maintain the original color, flavor, aroma, quality, and nutritional value of treated seafood

products (Arnaud et al., 2018; Tsironi et al., 2019). The effectiveness of HPP in preserving seafood products is influenced by many factors (Table 1). The application of HPP at pressures ranging from 200 to 300 MPa led to the inactivation of pro-oxidative enzymes in both lean and fatty fish, particularly when applied prior to freezing (Cropotova et al., 2020). Truong et al. (2016) reported that pretreatment of barramundi muscle with HPP at pressures ranging from 150 to 200 MPa for 3 min, increased muscle hardness and effectively delayed lipid oxidation during frozen storage at  $-18^{\circ}\text{C}$  for a duration of 18 weeks. HPP exhibits a diverse range of effects on the quality and shelf-life of various fish species. It can maintain water in food matrix and extend shelf-life in European hake at 150–450 MPa (Pita-Calvo et al., 2018a). HPP also improved texture, preventing lipid hydrolysis, and prolonged shelf-life of raw hilsa fillets at 250 and 350 MPa for 10 min (Chouhan et al., 2015). Conversely, HPP at 500 MPa could increase the activity of cathepsins in fresh sea bass fillets. This potentially linked to the reduction in activity of degradative enzymes such as cathepsins, acid phosphatases, lipases, and calpains, as observed in fresh sea bass fillets (Ch  ret et al., 2005; Teixeira et al., 2013). HPP at pressure levels exceeding 200 MPa was found to reduce the conformational stability of myofibrils, while pressures above 300 MPa increased the sulfhydryl content, hydrophobic regions, and free amino acids within the fish muscle tissue (Bhat et al., 2021b).

HPP-based inactivation of endogenous enzymes in seafood has been reported. HPP has been observed to effectively inhibit lipid hydrolysis and oxidation, while reducing the breakdown of trimethylamine oxide during the frozen storage of both fatty and lean fish species, as demonstrated by V  zquez et al. (2018). Cropotova et al. (2020) found that fish cake subjected to a pressure treatment of 200 MPa exhibited improved sensory quality as witnessed by lighter color, softer texture resulting from denatured proteins, and a decreased degree of lipid oxidation, possibly attributable to the inactivation of pro-oxidative endogenous enzymes. HPP has been documented to offer advantages in terms of extending the shelf-life of seafood and effectively inactivating biogenic amines during refrigerated storage (Mat  jkov   et al., 2013). In general, some fish products are prone to the formation of biogenic amines during refrigerated storage, primarily due to enzymatic and microbial activities, which result in undesirable off-flavors. In some cases, biogenic amines can cause intoxication, (Biji et al., 2016; Cheng et al., 2014). HPP applied to raw squid at pressures ranging from 200 to 400 MPa resulted in a substantial reduction in the concentrations of dimethylamine (DMA) and TMA, in which the decrease of 20–51% was observed after 20 days of chilled storage (Gou et al., 2010), while HPP applied to black tiger shrimp at pressures ranging from 300 to 600 MPa for 3–9 min resulted in a substantial reduction in TMA concentration by 20–63% (Kaur et al., 2016). Moreover, HPP treatments induced slight

modifications in chemical compositions and nonvolatile sensory compounds of raw oysters, as reported by Liu et al. (2021b). These obvious changes occurred after HPP treatment at 400 MPa for 3 min at  $20^{\circ}\text{C}$  was applied, compared to a traditional steam processing method. HPP has been used in combination with other technologies to obtain some synergistic effects. The synergistic application of HPP at 500 MPa for 5 min at  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ , microwave treatment at 900 W for 1 min, marination, and vacuum packaging effectively maintained the monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFA) and polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) contents of Atlantic mackerel samples, leading to a notable improvement in their overall nutritional quality (Fiore et al., 2019).

In crustaceans and mollusks, the main function of HPP application involves treatment at pressure levels ranging from 100 to 600 MPa for 3–15 min. Rong et al. (2018) found that HPP at 275 MPa for 3 min or 300 MPa for 2 min resulted in the complete release of oyster adductor muscles, thus optimizing the shucking process. Shucking mollusks and crustaceans with HPP not only enhance flavor and juiciness but also facilitates 100% meat removal by separating the meat from the shell in blood clams, lobsters and crabs. (Palamae et al., 2024a, 2024b) reported that HPP at 300 MPa for 3 min was easily shucked and had a high expanding rate. It was also recommended for blood clam processing to preserve color, heme iron content, and fatty acid profiles. This process offers clean label product claimed "100% natural" and "additive-free" (Roobab et al., 2022).

### Limitation of HPP

Different microorganisms have varying degrees of resistance to HPP, and some factors e.g., growth phase, pH, and food matrix composition can influence their susceptibility (Farkas and Hoover, 2000). Furthermore, HPP equipment and operational costs are relatively high. There has been an increasing investment in industrial HPP units due to the technology's potential benefits in terms of food safety and quality improvement. While HPP can effectively reduce or inactivate several microorganisms, it may not be sufficient for complete pathogen reduction (Huang et al., 2017). The isostatic compression and subsequent release of pressure during HPP showed a negative impact on sensitive small molecules such as vitamins and flavor components to some extent (Linton et al., 2000). However, HPP under the extreme condition brings about the changes in quality attributes or acceptability, e.g., textural alteration, color changes, etc. (Bhat et al., 2021a; Roobab et al., 2022). A pressure of 400 MPa may potentially disrupt lysosomes, leading to denaturation, aggregation, and fragmentation of sarcoplasmic proteins (Teixeira et al., 2013). Palamae et al. (2024a) and Palamae et al. (2024b) also reported that HPP >400 MPa damaged hemolymph and caused gaps, increased lipid oxidation and destruction of tissue of



**Table 1.** Applications of HPP for seafood preservation

Seafood product	Condition	Finding	Reference
<b>Fish:</b>			
European sea bass ( <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i> )	600 MPa for 5 min at 25°C.	- Reduction of >5 log CFU/g of initial TVC - Increase in lightness and hardness with compacting fibers. - Extension of shelf-life: 11 days for untreated fillets, 2 months for HPP-treated fillets	Tsironi et al. (2019)
Mackerel fillets	100-500 MPa for 2-5 min.	- Reduction of TVC and H <sub>2</sub> S-producing bacteria at 300 MPa for 5 min and 500 MPa for 2- or 5-min. - Increase in lightness ( <i>L</i> *) and decrease in redness ( <i>a</i> *) at 500 MPa - Decrease in EPA, PUFA, HUFA, DHA, CLA levels - Increase in MUFAs and SFA levels	de Alba et al. (2019)
Tuna (Skipjack, <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i> )	150-600 MPa for 1-5 min.	-Increase in protein denaturation with higher HPP pressure - Decrease in water holding capacity from 57% to 44% at 600 MPa. - Reduction of total aerobic counts by 4.75, 0.12, 1.20, 4.69, and 6.08 log CFU/g at 150, 300, 450, and 600 MPa of HPP pressures, respectively	Jiranuntakul et al. (2018)
Tilapia ( <i>Oreochromis niloticus</i> )	100-400 MPa for 1-3 min combined with storage at 5°C for 7 days.	- Increase in <i>L</i> * and whiteness in treated samples at 300 and 400 MPa compared to control samples - Reduction of psychrotrophic bacteria at 300 and 400 MPa - Maintain sensorial properties at 200 MPa of HPP treatment - Effective preservation: HPP at 400 MPa for 3 min, but color changes may reduce commercial viability.	Suemitsu and Cristianini (2019)
Salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ), cod ( <i>G. morhua</i> ), and Mackerel ( <i>Scomber scombrus</i> )	200 and 500 MPa for 2 min combined with stored for 26 days.	- No effect on salmon oxidation with HPP at 200 MPa (unlike cod). - Mackerel had consistently high TBARS levels, regardless of pressure. - Reduction of acid phosphatase for both control and 200 MPa treated salmon at day 11 compared to day 0.	Rode and Hovda (2016)
<b>Mollusks:</b>			
Oysters (Pacific, <i>C. gigas</i> )	100-350 MPa for 1-3 min with stored at 4°C.	- HPP at 275 MPa for 3 min or 300 MPa for 2 min: 100% release of oyster adductor muscle. - This process decreased aerobic bacterial count by 1.27 log CFU/g. - Pressures above 350 MPa led to excessive oyster shell breakage.	Cao et al. (2017)
Oysters (Pacific, <i>C. gigas</i> )	300 MPa for 2 min combined with stored at 4°C.	- Control oysters had a shelf-life of 6–8 days, while HPP-treated oysters lasted 12 days. - Spoiled HPP-treated oysters were dominated by <i>Psychrobacter</i> (42.3%). - Spoiled oysters without HPP treatment were dominated by <i>Pseudoalteromonas</i> (32.2%) and <i>Shewanella</i> (19.5%).	Rong et al. (2018)
Blue Mussel, ( <i>Mytilus edulis</i> ) homogenates	250-450 MPa for 1-3 min at 25°C.	- For >5 log CFU/g reduction: <i>V. alginolyticus</i> and <i>V. cholerae</i> : 350–450 MPa for ≥1 min at 25 °C. <i>V. vulnificus</i> : 250 MPa for ≥3 min or 350–450 MPa for ≥1 min. <i>V. parahaemolyticus</i> : 350 MPa for ≥3 min or 450 MPa for ≥1 min.	Vu et al. (2018)
Blood clam edible portion, <i>Tegillarca granosa</i>	100-600 MPa for 3 min	- HP-P at 300 MPa did not affect hemocyte, heme iron and redness of blood clam edible portion. - HP-P > 400 MPa damaged hemolymph and caused gaps of tissue of blood clam edible portion. - HP-P at 600 MPa reduced lipid globular structure diameter from 16 μm to 3 μm. - Lipid oxidation of blood clam edible portion was enhanced with increasing pressure levels.	Palamae et al. (2024b)
Squid (Jumbo, <i>Dosidicus gigas</i> )	100-400 MPa combined Salt (15 g/100 ml) for 30 s.	- Increasing pressure levels raised <i>L</i> * (Lightness) and <i>b</i> * (yellowish) but lowered <i>a</i> * (reddish) in color parameters. - Samples appeared brighter and exhibited a mildly cooked appearance.	Lemus- Mondaca et al. (2018)
<b>Crustaceans:</b>			
Shrimp (Black Tiger, <i>P. monodon</i> )	300-600 MPa for 0-15 min at 30-60°C.	- HPP and temperature enhanced inactivation of <i>E. coli</i> , <i>L. innocua</i> , and <i>S. aureus</i> . - Reduction of 6 log CFU/g of <i>S. aureus</i> with moderate quality changes at optimal conditions (361 MPa for 12 min at 46°C)	Kaur and Rao (2017a, and b)
Shrimp ( <i>L. vannamei</i> ), shelled fresh	200-400 MPa for 5-15 min combined AEW	- Single HPP treatment reduced <i>V. parahaemolyticus</i> and <i>L. monocytogenes</i> by 4.74 and 4.31 log CFU/g, respectively. - AEW greatly enhanced HPP for <i>V. parahaemolyticus</i> and <i>L. monocytogenes</i> inactivation (up to 6.08 and 5.71 log CFU/g).	Du et al. (2016)
Crab (Chinese Mitten, <i>Eriocheir sinensis</i> )	300 MPa for 20 min at 25°C combined chilled storage at 4°C.	- Decrease in lightness and whiteness for HPP-treated meat after 3 weeks of storage On day 8, crab meat had an aerobic plate count of 5.71 log CFU/g, total volatile base nitrogen of 24.50, and histamine content of 0.99 mg/100 g. - The shelf-life was extended to 6 days, and the dominant spoilage organism was <i>Clostridium</i> .	Ye et al. (2021a and b)



blood clam edible portion. Thus, it is often used in combination with other technologies to ensure microbiological safety in seafoods and maintain the original quality and flavor of their products.

### **Cold Plasma (CP)**

CP is a relatively new technology with high antimicrobial potential, which has been developed for treatment of different fresh and ready-to-eat food products (Ganesan et al., 2021). This technology is based on the application of high voltage electricity or other energy inputs to ionize gaseous atoms. Free electrons naturally present in the gas will absorb the energy at a more accelerated rate than the other ions, in which they will transfer the absorbed energy to heavier molecules through elastic and inelastic collisions. This imparts reactive properties on the gas, which further undergoes excitation, phase reactions-ionization, and dissociation to generate several reactive species (free radicals, ROS, new electrons, ions, etc.) (Misra et al., 2016). These generated reactive species have the ability to interact with microorganisms or enzymes, causing their inhibition and inactivation (Tagrida et al., 2021). Therefore, this technique can show promising aspects to be used for sanitizing food surfaces and the packages (Olatunde & Benjakul, 2018). No discoloration or dehydration took place in CP treated products (Sharma, 2020). CP can be generated via different devices, depending on the electric field source, pressure, gas flow, and gas type. It can provide a wide range of active species, depending on adjustable parameters (Schlüter et al., 2013). For the pressure involved in the process of CP generation, either low or atmospheric pressure, can be used (Misra & Jo, 2017).

### **Low-pressure CP System**

A comprehensive low-pressure CP system includes a vacuum chamber, gas removal pump, gas feeders, controllers, gauges, and multi-frequency electrodes for diverse deposition techniques (Garvey & Rowan, 2019). Low-pressure CP systems offer precise control over gas quantity and composition due to their operation in a closed vacuum vessel, ensuring a balanced distribution of plasma throughout the enclosure (Okyerere et al., 2022). There are several low-pressure systems used for CP generation.

### **Glow Discharge CP**

In this system, an electric current ( $\geq 100$  V) either alternating current (AC) or direct current (DC), is applied through a gas over a series of electrodes. Due to excitation and collisions, electrons and other reactive species are generated with sufficient energy, which results in generation of other reactive species including the photons responsible for the visible glow (Campelo et al., 2020). Glow discharge plasma has been used in food

applications such as seed germination, agronomic traits, enzymatic activities, and nutritional properties (Sohan et al., 2022).

### **Radio Frequency (RF) Discharge CP**

This kind of plasma typically operates at a radio frequency range between 1 and 100 MHz. The plasma is generated when an oscillating electromagnetic field produced either by inductive or capacitive discharge, is applied on a gas (Obileke et al., 2022). It is a highly effective method for preventing food spoilage under specific controlled conditions (Jiang et al., 2022). RF discharge CP can inactivate microorganisms, in which products can meet microbial food safety standards.

### **Microwave Plasma**

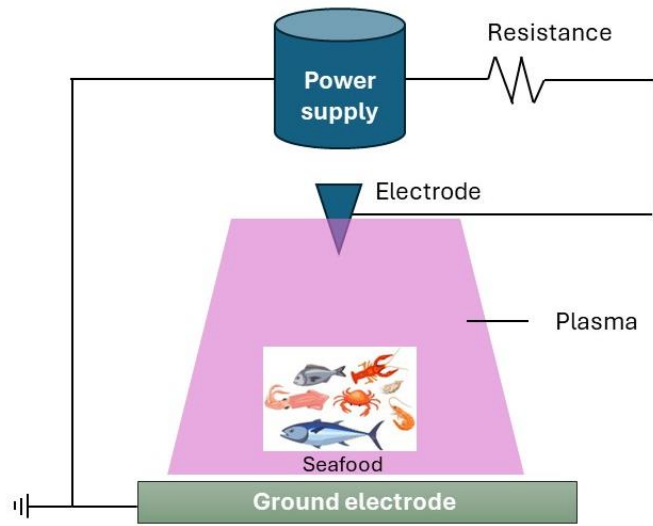
Like RF discharge CP, this technique functions by oscillating electrons, which in turn generate ions and other free radicals by colliding with gas atoms and molecules (Ganesan et al., 2021). Microwave plasma is usually created through capacitive coupling by employing a magnetron to generate microwave power, which is then transmitted through coaxial waveguides to a hollow coaxial electrode (Ivanov et al., 2019). The gas, typically argon or nitrogen, is capacitively infused with microwave energy via the electrode to generate plasma (Misra et al., 2016). It has been used for many food packages and other industrial applications due to its ability to penetrate bacterial cells and cause oxidative stress, plasma membrane alterations, and DNA modifications.

### **Atmospheric-pressure CP System**

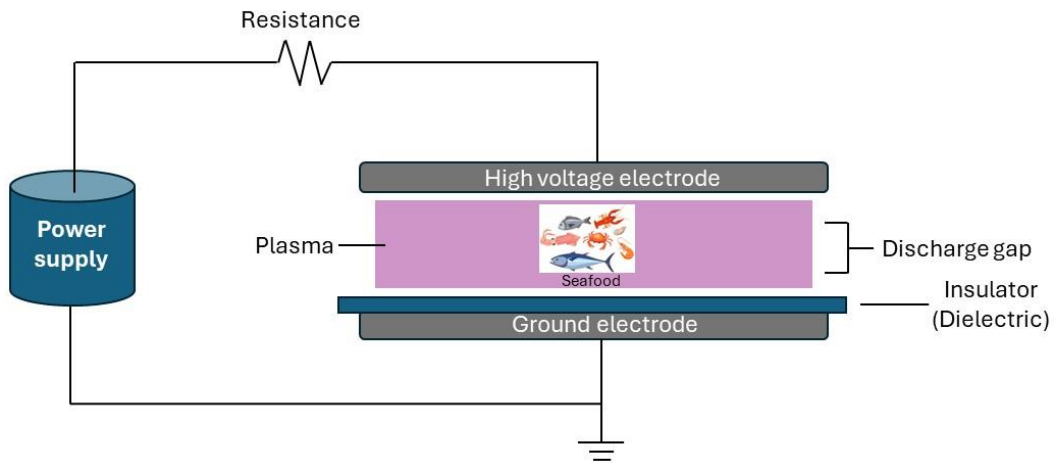
These systems are commonly operated at a high voltage using either AC or DC (Figure 2). They provide a continuous treatment to the product (Okyerere et al., 2022). The most notable atmospheric-pressure CP systems have been documented.

### **Corona Discharge**

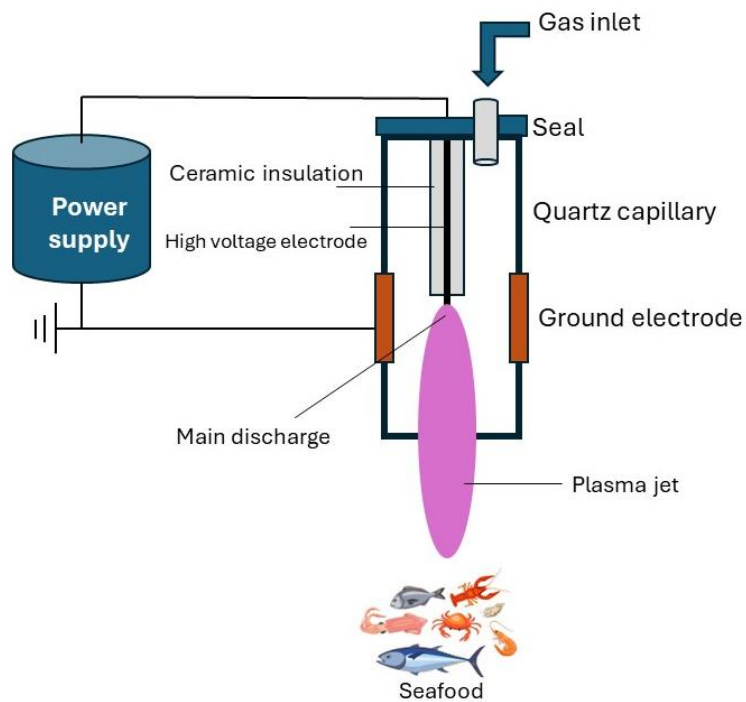
This type of plasma is generated when a strong electric field ionizes the air around a conductor, usually appearing at atmospheric pressure close to sharp points or thin wires having sufficiently large electric field (Puač et al., 2018). The instrument setup typically comes in the shape of two contrasting electrodes, positioned apart by a space that holds the gas used to produce plasma. These electrodes are linked to a high-voltage source (Darvish et al., 2020). These configurations are energized by high, continuous, or pulsed DC or AC voltages. Gases employed to generate corona discharge can include air, N<sub>2</sub>, Ar, a mixture of He and O<sub>2</sub>, or Ar and O<sub>2</sub> (Dobrynin et al., 2011). Corona discharge has been used for improving the quality of many foods (Lee et al., 2018).



**A. Corona discharge**



**B. Dielectric barrier discharge (DBD)**



**C. Plasma jet**

Figure 2. Atmospheric-pressure cold plasma systems.

### Dielectric Barrier Discharge

The setup of the system usually consists of electrodes covered with dielectric materials such as quartz, ceramic, or plastic. The gases (air, N<sub>2</sub>, Ar, and He) enclosed between two electrodes are ionized by the application of a high voltage to the electrodes, leading to the generation of plasma (Thirumdas et al., 2015). Electrodes are typically positioned within the sealed container, allowing for direct sample treatment and preventing the escape of generated plasma species (Feizollahi et al., 2021). Additionally, round-edged electrodes, dielectric materials used, and the application of high voltage are utilized to avoid arcing during the generation of plasma (Okyere et al., 2022). Currently, this technique has been extensively used for the destruction of vegetative cells and spores of several microorganisms that can grow on different food materials (Guo et al., 2021).

### Plasma Jets

Plasma jet systems feature a generator with an outer casing serving as a ground and an inner electrode crafted from materials like stainless steel, pyrex, or glass (Okyere et al., 2022). The generator is connected to two electrodes, one serving as the ground electrode and the other linked to the power supply, facilitating the generation of the plasma jet. This system also contains airflow monitor, and gas inlet (Deng et al., 2020). The supplied gas is ionized by applying high voltage between the electrodes. Thereafter it expands to the surroundings outside a nozzle. Compressed air, or mixture of Ar/N<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> were reported to be the most suitable gases used in this kind of system with better preservation properties (Sharma, 2020).

### Microbial Activity and Enzyme Deactivation Efficacy of CP

Basically, CP can efficiently destroy or inhibit the growth of numerous bacteria, fungi and other pathogens or spoilage microorganisms (Lacombe et al., 2015) (Figure 3). CP can instantly react with microbial macromolecules, such as polysaccharides, lipids, proteins, and DNA causing their oxidation and altering their nature (Deng et al., 2020). These particles and radicals in plasma have the tendency to affect the integrity of the microbial cellular membranes because of their ability to adhere to the microbial cell surface (Wu et al., 2021). As a consequence, their permeability and their functional activities are affected, resulting in the eventual inhibition of their growth (Olatunde & Benjakul, 2018). Reactive species can induce the formation and accumulation of intracellular oxidative stress, affecting the cytoplasmic and nuclear responses, which consequently result in DNA damage, cell cycle alterations and apoptosis (Panieri et al., 2013). CP treatment affected the microbial proteins abundance

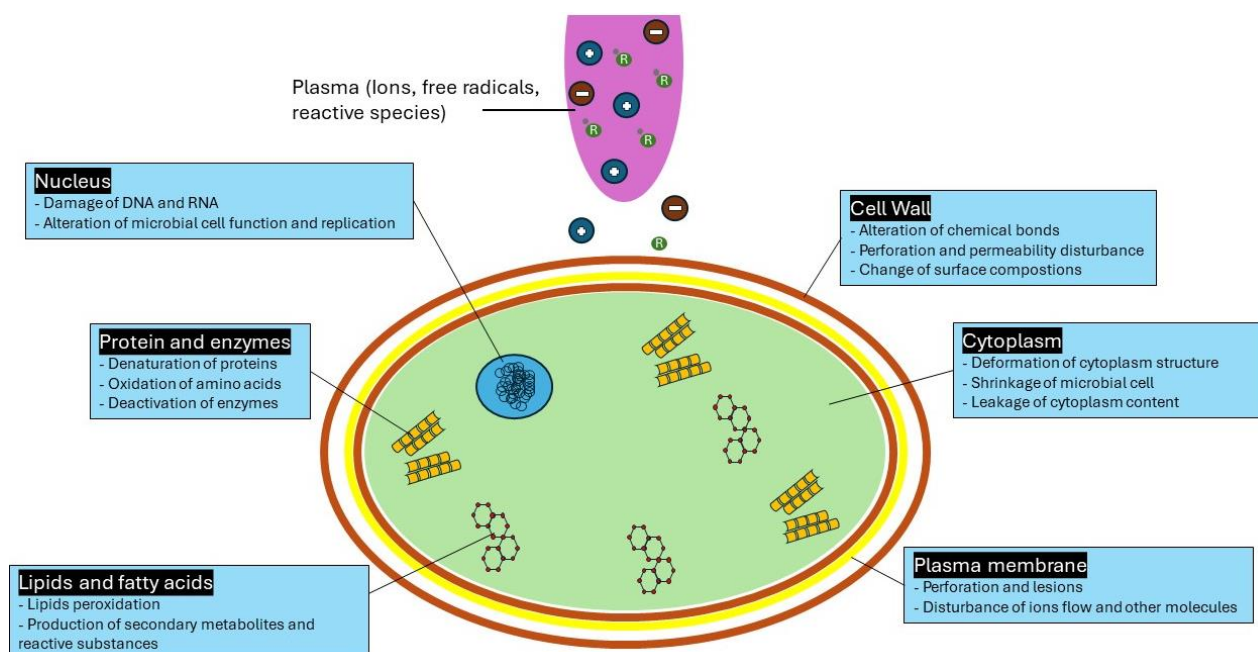
and genes responsible for the functions of cell wall, membrane, motility, chemotaxis, stress resistance, prophages formation and sporulation (de Souza Pedrosa et al., 2021).

CP has been reported to inactivate a wide range of enzymes such as polyphenol oxidase, peroxidase, and lysozyme (Misra et al., 2016). The generation of plasma can degrade enzymes via damaging their active sites by reactive species (Misra et al., 2019). It can also slow down the metabolic activity of the tissue, thus halting their enzymatic activities (Tappi et al., 2016). Peroxidase and polyphenol oxidase are the enzymes found widely in various foods. Peroxidases are commonly linked to reactions that could negatively impact the quality of food, including the oxidation of lipids and phenols, leading to changes in flavor and surface browning (Wang et al., 2023a). Rapid deactivation of peroxidase in many foods was achieved when exposed to CP, denoting its importance in preventing such negative impacts (Mayookha et al., 2022). Most CP uses nitrogen and oxygen gas mixtures to generate plasma that contains considerable amounts of nitrogen oxides molecules, which are responsible for decreasing the activities of several enzymes by altering their structure (Misra et al., 2016). When amino acids such L-alanine and L-valine were directly exposed to CP, degradation of COOH group and NH<sub>2</sub> group was observed and by-products such as formic acid, acetone, acetic acid, pyruvic acid, and erythro-methlyaspartic acid were formed (Li et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2023b). Free oxygen atoms along with other free radicals generated by CP have the ability to abstract hydrogen from the enzyme's backbone, thus generating more radical, which leads to subsequent radical chain process. This results in the cleavage of the entire enzyme chain and the formation of volatile compounds (Birania et al., 2022).

CP led to a significant diminishment in the number of  $\alpha$ -helices, signifying the loss of enzyme activity. Similarly, Segat et al. (2016) reported that the loss in the activity of alkaline phosphatase after treatment with CP was attributed to the loss of  $\alpha$ -helix structure along with a decrease in the  $\beta$ -sheet content. The decomposition of different bonds in the enzymes resulting from oxidation by reactive species of oxygen containing plasma leads to loss of  $\beta$ -structure, thereby inactivating these enzymes (Iqbal et al., 2019). Thus, the alterations in the structure of enzymes are strongly attributed to the chemical interactions between the enzyme polymer units and the reactive species generated by CP. Therefore, CP can be used to inactivate the activity of enzymes linked with adverse effects in different foods (Pankaj et al., 2013).

### Application of CP for Seafood Preservation

Majorly, CP was used to decontaminate food products such as agricultural crops, cheese, meat, eggs, and dairy products (Ganesan et al., 2021). Due to its effectiveness in microbial decontamination, the use of CP was extensively studied for the preservation and



**Figure 2.** Impact of cold plasma on the activity of microbial cells.

shelf-life extension of seafood (Rathod et al., 2022). In general, seafood is rich in PUFAs, that are easily susceptible to lipid oxidation. This can lead to rancid odor, inedible taste, loss of nutrients, formation of unhealthy molecules and color changes (Olatunde et al., 2021c). CP generated from air using DBD technique at 40 kV, and 500Hz for 10 min was able to reduce bacterial count and extend the shelf-life of Pacific white shrimp up to 14 days (da Silva Campelo et al., 2019). The physicochemical properties and sensorial attributes were improved during the storage compared to the control samples which showed rapid spoilage. Asian seabass slices had the prolonged shelf-life (15 days) when treated with CP at 80 kV for 5 min using the mixture of CO<sub>2</sub>, Ar, and O<sub>2</sub> (60:30:10) (Olatunde et al., 2020). Lower total volatile nitrogen base content and total bacterial count were found in the treated slices, compared to the untreated slices, which showed the elevated spoilage. CP markedly changed the biophysical properties and induced aggregation of the protein which further strengthened the gel formation of surimi made from threadfin bream muscles (Olatunde et al., 2021c). Color attributes, water holding capacity, and textural properties of the myofibrillar proteins from Largehead hairtail were enhanced significantly after treatment with CP generated from air using DBD at 50 kV for 300 s (Koddy et al., 2021). Recent applications of CP for seafood preservation are summarized in Table 2.

#### Limitation of CP

Cold plasma has shown promise as a novel technology for food preservation, but it also comes with certain limitations and challenges which can include limited penetration depth into certain food matrices.

This can affect its ability to treat and inactivate microorganisms that may be present in the inner layers of certain food products (Tagrida et al., 2021). Cold plasma is often more effective in surface treatments rather than penetrating deep into porous or structured food items. This limitation may impact its ability to treat foods with complex surfaces or irregular shapes thoroughly (Koddy et al., 2021). While cold plasma is effective against many pathogenic microorganisms, its efficacy against spoilage microorganisms may vary. Some spoilage microorganisms may be more resistant to the effects of cold plasma, additionally the efficacy of cold plasma can be influenced by factors such as the composition and properties of the treated food, the type of microorganisms present, and environmental conditions. This variability makes it challenging to establish consistent inactivation levels (Olatunde et al., 2020). Moreover, cold plasma treatments may have an impact on the sensory attributes, nutritional quality, and overall organoleptic properties of treated foods (Tagrida & Benjakul, 2022). The equipment required for generating cold plasma can be complex and expensive. Additionally, operational costs may be higher compared to some traditional preservation methods. Also, cold plasma systems may require a significant amount of energy, and the associated energy consumption can be a concern in terms of sustainability and cost-effectiveness. This can be a limitation for small-scale or resource-limited food processing facilities (Rathod et al., 2022).

#### Modified Atmosphere Packaging (MAP)

MAP involves the use of gas barrier materials to enclose food products while modifying the gas

**Table 2.** Applications of cold plasma for seafood preservation

Seafood product	Type of cold plasma	Gas used and working conditions	Findings	References
Fish balls	Corona discharge cold plasma	Sterile dry air, 75 Hz and air flow of 6.5 L/min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduction of bacterial load</li> <li>- Deformation and rupture of bacterial cells</li> <li>- Maintain physical appearance of the products</li> </ul>	Zhang et al. (2019)
Pacific white shrimp	In-bag dielectric barrier discharge	Ar/air (80/20), 16 kVRMS, for 10 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduction in bacterial count</li> <li>- Improvement of physicochemical properties</li> <li>- Shelf-life extension up to 15 days at 4°C</li> </ul>	Shiekh and Benjakul (2020)
Tilapia fillets	Dielectric barrier discharge	Atmospheric air, 60 kV for 4 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduction of enzymatic activity, total sulfhydryl (TSH) and carbonyl contents</li> <li>- Retardation of bacterial growth</li> <li>- Shelf-life extension for 10 days at 4°C</li> </ul>	Mohamed et al. (2021)
Tilapia slices	In-bag dielectric barrier discharge	CO <sub>2</sub> : Ar: O <sub>2</sub> (60:30:10), 80 kVRMS for 300 s+ pretreatment with betel ethanolic extract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Retardation of bacterial growth</li> <li>- Reduction of lipid oxidation and total nitrogenous compounds content</li> <li>- Maintain sensorial properties</li> <li>- Shelf-life extension for 12 days</li> </ul>	Tagrida et al. (2021)
Seafood product	Type of cold plasma	Gas used and working conditions	Findings	References
Blue swimming crab lump meat	In-bag dielectric barrier discharge	O <sub>2</sub> and Ar (10:90), 80 kVRMS for 15 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduction of spoilage bacteria</li> <li>- Maintain physical and sensorial properties</li> <li>- Shelf-life extension for 9 days</li> <li>- Retain volatile freshness compounds</li> </ul>	Olatunde et al. (2021a)
Bigeye Tuna Slices	In-bag dielectric barrier discharge	Atmospheric air, 40 kVRMS for 90 s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintain sensorial properties for 7 days of storage at 4°C</li> <li>- Preserve the flavor of the slices</li> <li>- Reduction of microbial load</li> </ul>	Pan et al. (2022)
Tilapia Fillets	Dielectric barrier discharge	Atmospheric air, 70 kV for 60, 120, 180, 240, and 300 s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase lipid oxidation with increase the treatment time</li> <li>- Maintain physical properties</li> <li>- Reduction of total nitrogenous compounds and lipid oxidation</li> </ul>	Wang et al. (2022b)
Fresh sea bass	Dielectric barrier discharge	He/air, 20 kHz and 30 kV for 10 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Retardation of bacterial growth</li> <li>- Improve sensorial properties after 5 days of storage</li> </ul>	Mol et al. (2023)

environment within the package to inhibit the growth of spoilage microorganisms and extend shelf life. As a consequence, higher quality can be maintained, and shelf life of perishable food can be extended during storage (Tagrida et al., 2021). Two major forms of MAP include vacuum packaging and gas flush or gas exchange packaging. Vacuum packaging involves placing the food product in a package that has low gas permeability. Thereafter the air is removed from the package and the hermetic seal is applied (Cenci-Goga et al., 2020). This technique is based on the principle that both aerobic microorganisms and oxidation reactions based on oxygen can be inhibited. Therefore, it can impede spoilage, maintain product quality, and extend shelf-life (Conte-Junior et al., 2020). Despite these effects, vacuum packaging may lead to some deterioration due to the proliferation of anaerobic or microaerophilic microorganisms and the occurrence of non-oxidative reactions. Additionally, vacuum packaging will lead to product compression which is unavoidable and can result in consumer rejection of the packaged products (Fidalgo et al., 2020).

Gas exchange packaging is similar to vacuum packaging, but the key difference is that after removal of air from the package, a specific mixture of gases is introduced to that package, in which the atmosphere of the package can be controlled (Olatunde et al., 2019a). This technique was designed to overcome some drawbacks of vacuum packaging by inhibiting a wider range of spoilage microorganisms and avoid the compression of food products (Tabassum & Khan, 2020). The inhibition effect of this technique depends on the gases used for the process. Keeping the packaged product in refrigerated conditions is general practice, which can maximize the inhibition effect.

### Antimicrobial Efficacy of MAP

Several gases have been commonly used in MAP. Each has specific function to retard the spoilage of the packaged products (Tagrida et al., 2021). Oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) removal from the package is vital to ensure the inhibition of the aerobic microbes and the retardation of oxidation of seafoods. Moreover, O<sub>2</sub> is important for packaging of red meat or seafood meat such as tuna which requires myoglobin to be preserved in its oxygenated form (oxymyoglobin) with the preferable bright red color (Conte-Junior et al., 2020). For salmon, appropriate gas mixture can help maintain the astaxanthin, a major pigment of salmon meat (Conte-Junior et al., 2020). To achieve these demands, the O<sub>2</sub> must be controlled within the packages to avoid the strictly anaerobic condition, which promote hazardous pathogens e.g., *Clostridium botulinum* (Cenci-Goga et al., 2020).

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) has been extensively used in MAP because of its immense importance in the inhibition of many spoilage microorganisms, particularly after dissolution into the packaged product (Masniyom

et al., 2002). The inhibitory effect of CO<sub>2</sub> is linked to the amount used. Nevertheless, CO<sub>2</sub> at levels higher than 60% was found to show no significant difference in its inhibitory effect towards several microorganisms (Floros & Matsos, 2005). The package volume, surface area, and the permeability of the packaging material are important factors to be considered as they will affect the dissolution of CO<sub>2</sub> into the product, thus affecting the inhibition activity of CO<sub>2</sub> (Qu et al., 2022). Additionally, low storage temperature is found to enhance the solubility of CO<sub>2</sub>. Thus, it can have synergistic effects by increasing its inhibition effect (Simpson et al., 2009). Carbonic acid is formed after the dissolution of CO<sub>2</sub>, which is believed to cause the inhibition effect towards many microorganisms by altering the pH of the environment and consequently affecting their permeability and other metabolic reactions in bacterial cells (Tagrida & Benjakul, 2022). Nevertheless, the accumulation of carbonic acid will lead to an increase in the acidity of the products, which can be rejected many consumers. Furthermore, the increased intake of the gas by the packaged product will lead to pack collapse which change its appearance and may contribute to sealing problem or material fault (Masniyom et al., 2002). CO<sub>2</sub> was reported to increase the duration of the lag phase. Bacteria can remain dormant during this period, thus increasing the inhibitory effects (Spilimbergo & Bertucco, 2003).

Nitrogen (N<sub>2</sub>) is used as a balance or filler usually to replace O<sub>2</sub> in packaging and if the product is highly prone to oxidation. It also can be used to limit pack collapse caused by the absorption or dissolution of CO<sub>2</sub> (Rashvand et al., 2023). This inert gas is tasteless, odorless, and colorless. Therefore, it will not lead to notable changes in the organoleptic or biochemical properties of the packed foods, thus maintaining the quality of the packed foods, retarding spoilage, and prolonging the shelf-life (Olatunde et al., 2019a). Additionally, N<sub>2</sub> cushions protect fragile foods within the package from being crushed during handling. Nonetheless, the amount of N<sub>2</sub> used in MAP should be optimized to provide sufficient protection and to allow space for additional expansion due to pressure changes during handling and storage (Kalpana et al., 2019).

Argon (Ar) is another inert gas that was used recently in MAP due to its characteristics and inability to react with the packed food products in harmful way. It does not cause notable changes on the chemical or sensorial properties of the packed food products (Olatunde et al., 2020). The effectiveness of Ar was demonstrated when a MAP system containing Ar was managed successfully in maintaining the quality of pomegranate arils (Tinebra et al., 2021). These keeping effects of Ar on pomegranate quality could be owing to the presence of Ar clathrate hydrate, which is formed when an inert gas is dissolved in water at a suitable temperature and pressure (Shen et al., 2019). Clathrate hydrate is a three-dimensional crystal structure compound consisting of two molecular sup-structures,

the primary molecule forms a cage-like structure through bonding, while the other molecule is enclosed in the cage-like structure (Lagnika et al., 2011). Water molecules align in clathrate hydrates to form complexes through the hydrogen bonds, and gas molecules are localized in the clathrate. These complexes are stable at temperatures around 0°C (Park et al., 2020). Formation of clathrate hydrate limits the water fluidity and several enzymatic reactions, thus maintaining the quality and physicochemical characteristics of packed products for prolonged periods (Shen et al., 2019).

### Application of MAP for Seafood Preservation

Due to its preservative efficiency, MAP was used for the preservation of different seafoods. Nevertheless, to achieve maximum activity, MAP was usually used along with other preservative technology to cause a synergistic effect for the better preservation of the seafood (Olatunde & Benjakul, 2018). Skinless salmon fillets packaged in chitosan films enriched with pink pepper residue extract under MAP had the reduced lipid oxidation, compared to the control (Merlo et al., 2019). The packaged slices had lower bacterial count, lower total volatile nitrogen content, and better sensorial properties. The shelf-life could be extended up to 28 days. Masniyom et al. (2002) found that CO<sub>2</sub> proportion played a major role in shelf-life extension of refrigerated Asian seabass slices. Different gas compositions containing high CO<sub>2</sub> proportion in the range of 80–100%, showed the highest efficacy in shelf-life extension. In addition, the pretreatment of slices using pyrophosphate could exhibit the synergistic effect with MAP in inhibition of *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Escherichia coli* (Masniyom et al., 2006). Olatunde et al. (2019b) reported that MAP containing Ar showed superior preserving activity on Asian sea bass slices, in which the packaged samples had an extended shelf-life of 9 days, compared to 6 days for the control samples kept in air. A MAP system containing hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>) as reducing gas was also found to significantly reduce the quantity of biogenic amines in rainbow trout and horse mackerel (Sezer et al., 2022). The reduction rates were higher than that of a normal MAP system without the usage of H<sub>2</sub>, denoting the significance of this gas in preserving seafood for longer period. Other applications of MAP for seafood preservation are shown in Table 3.

### Limitation of MAP

While MAP has proven effective in preserving many types of foods, it also has certain limitations. MAP is more effective for certain types of foods and specific microorganisms. Its efficacy may vary depending on the food product and the microbial load present (Sezer et al., 2022). MAP is generally more effective against aerobic spoilage microorganisms than anaerobic ones. Oxygen-sensitive spoilage organisms may still proliferate in a modified atmosphere, affecting the overall quality of the product (Olatunde & Benjakul,

2018). The choice of packaging materials is crucial in MAP. If the packaging material is not sufficiently impermeable to gases, the modified atmosphere within the package may not be maintained, leading to a shortened shelf life, furthermore, implementing MAP requires specialized equipment to control gas composition within the packaging. The initial investment in this equipment, along with ongoing operational costs, can be a limitation for small-scale or resource-limited food processing facilities (Merlo et al., 2019). The effectiveness of MAP can be sensitive to temperature fluctuations during storage and transportation. Inconsistent temperature conditions may compromise the preservation benefits provided by the modified atmosphere (Park et al., 2020). Some microorganisms may adapt to the modified atmosphere over time, reducing the efficacy of MAP. This adaptation can lead to the survival and proliferation of spoilage or pathogenic microorganisms, in addition, MAP may create conditions that promote anaerobic respiration in certain microorganisms, leading to the growth of anaerobic spoilage bacteria. (Tinebra et al., 2021). Additionally, MAP may affect the sensory attributes, color, texture, and flavor of certain food products. The altered atmosphere can impact the oxidation of fats, which might result in changes to the product's overall quality (Qu et al., 2022).

### Conclusions

Emerging non-thermal technologies for seafood processing encompass various stages, starting with pretreatment involving ozonized water, plasma-activated water, and acidic electrolyzed water. In general, pretreatment can reduce initial microbial loads. Subsequent non-thermal processes like high-pressure processing, cold plasma, and MAP are applied under suitable conditions to enhance microbial inactivation, while minimizing adverse effects. Finally, advanced packaging technologies, particularly MAP, play a crucial role in extending the shelf-life of seafood products. It is essential to store these pretreated/processed seafood products at low temperatures to enhance their shelf-life extension. The combined advantages of these technologies make them a promising approach for microbial inactivation while preserving sensory attributes and nutritional value. Safety of seafood and products can also be assured for consumers

### Ethical Statement

Ethics approval was not required for this research.

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**Table 2.** Applications of modified atmospheric packaging for seafood preservation

Seafood product	Gas composition and other hurdles	Findings	References
Asian Seabass slices	CO <sub>2</sub> : O <sub>2</sub> : N <sub>2</sub> (80: 10: 10) and CO <sub>2</sub> (100)	- Reduction of TVB-N, TMA, NH <sub>3</sub> and formaldehyde contents - Maintain sensorial properties Extension of shelf-life for 21 days at 4°C	Masniyom et al. (2002)
Pacific white shrimp	CO <sub>2</sub> : O <sub>2</sub> : N <sub>2</sub> (40:10:50) + weakly acidic electrolyzed water ice-glazing	- Inhibition of total aerobes and <i>S. aureus</i> - Reduce lipid oxidation and maintaining lower TVB-N and TMA - Retard the degradation of the physical structure of shrimp meat	Zhang et al. (2015)
Half-Smooth Tongue Sole fillets	CO <sub>2</sub> : N <sub>2</sub> (70: 30) + edible coating based on Rosmarinic acid and ε-Polylysine	- Maintain the qualities and freshness - Reduction of nitrogenous volatile compounds - Extension of shelf life for 8–12 days during refrigerated storage	Li et al. (2018)
Salmon fillets	CO <sub>2</sub> (100%) + Chitosan films added with pink pepper residue extract	- Reduction of lipid oxidation - Retardation of microbial load - Reduction of formation of nitrogenous compounds - Maintain sensorial properties of the samples - Extension of shelf-life for 21 days compared to less than 14 days for the control samples	Merlo et al. (2019)
Seafood product	Gas composition and other hurdles	Findings	References
Farmed puffer fish	CO <sub>2</sub> : O <sub>2</sub> : N <sub>2</sub> (60: 5: 35) + weakly acidic electrolyzed water	- Inhibition of total viable counts (TVC), H <sub>2</sub> S-producing bacteria, <i>Pseudomonas</i> spp., and lactic acid bacteria (LAB) - Maintain lower TVB-N, TMA, and retarding lipid oxidation - Reduce the relative content of fishy flavor compounds - Extending shelf-life to 18 days compared to 8 days for the untreated samples	Li et al. (2020)
Asian sea bass slices	CO <sub>2</sub> : Ar: O <sub>2</sub> (60:30:10) + In-bag dielectric barrier discharge	- Reduction of microbial loads - Reduction of TVB-N and TMA - Extend shelf-life to 15 days compared to 6 days for the control samples	Olatunde et al. (2020)
Gray Triggerfish Fillets	N <sub>2</sub> : CO <sub>2</sub> : O <sub>2</sub> (30: 40: 30)	- Inhibition of increase in TVB-N and pH - Retardation of microbial counts - Maintain physicochemical and sensorial attributes - Extension of shelf-life for 12 days, compared to less than 10 days in the control samples	Esteves et al. (2021)

## Author Contribution

Mohamed Tagrida: Conceptualization and Writing-original draft; Suriya Palamae: Conceptualization, Writing-original draft and Writing-review and editing; and Soottawat Benjakul: Conceptualization, Supervision and Writing-review and editing. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

## Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest

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