

LOUISIANA SHRIMP TASK FORCE

June 20, 2011

On behalf of the Louisiana Shrimp Task Force, I am writing to request your assistance in petitioning Mr. Kenneth Feinberg and the Gulf Coast Claims Facility (GCCF) for relief in losses suffered due to low dockside prices paid to Louisiana shrimp fishermen and poor market conditions faced by Louisiana shrimp processors.

Last spring, before Louisiana began to suffer impacts from the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig accident and oil spill, shrimp prices began to stabilize following aggressive marketing and promotional efforts lead by the Louisiana Seafood and Promotion and Marketing Board. These efforts were realized despite years of depressed prices driven by competition from cheaply priced foreign shrimp imports. Since that time, despite these significant marketing and promotional efforts, the shrimp industry is again faced with low shrimp prices due to loss of market share and continued negative consumer perception over the safety of Louisiana and Gulf seafood following our nation's worst oil spill and environmental disaster.

Through a motion adopted unanimously by the Louisiana Shrimp Task Force, we are requesting your assistance in petitioning Mr. Feinberg and the GCCF to agree to fund a program that would compensate shrimp fishermen and shrimp processors for these price differences based upon appropriate and reasonable documentation.

Fishermen are facing increasingly higher fuel prices and operating expenses while the resource, they risk much to harvest, yields fewer dollars. These same sentiments and frustrations are shared by many fishermen as evidenced by public comments made from those attending the May task force meeting in Baton Rouge.

Thank you for your assistance with this request and your help with saving an industry that has been a significant and valuable contributor to the state's economy and cultural legacy.

May 18, 2011

With regards,

Mark Abraham, Chairman
Louisiana Shrimp Task Force

MJB

C: Task Force Members