

IMPORTED SHRIMP

from Clint Guidry

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*Passed as motion
by Shrimp Hawaii's
Advisory Panel*

Shrimp Anti-Dumping Petition

Federal Level

U.S. Customs is not collecting all tariff money owed by companies under the A/D Petition orders. The intent of the A/D order was to place extra cost of production on importing companies found guilty of dumping shrimp on U.S. markets thereby allowing U.S. producers to compete on a more equal playing field. Not collecting these tariffs negates intended relief of the trade action.

Countries under the A/D Petition orders are allegedly shipping shrimp through non-tariff countries. (Malaysia, Indonesia, Mexico, etc.) This alleged action defeats the purpose of the A/D order.

Shrimp Task Force (STF) needs to support the renewal of the current Shrimp A/D Petition (A/D Petition comes up for renewal in Feb. of 2010).

STF needs to support efforts for a new World Trade Organization Compliant Byrd Amendment.

Solutions offered by this committee:

STF needs to contact all LA legislators in Washington, DC and urge them to contact U.S. Customs and urge them to collect this money. We should also contact DC legislators in the other domestic shrimp producing states and urge them to do the same.

When contacting DC legislators include asking them to urge US Commerce to investigate and prosecute companies found guilty of shipping through non-tariff countries.

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Food Safety Issues

Federal Level:

Less than 2% of imported shrimp ever get tested for US banned antibiotics and contaminants (Existing US law).

The imported shrimp product that does test positive for antibiotics and contaminants is put back on the ship and re-enters another US port before the paperwork catches up with it (Port Shopping), enters the US, and is eaten by US consumers.

Enforcement of this one US law (Banned Animal Antibiotics in US Food) could drastically cut down the amount of imported shrimp imported into the US.

Use of US banned antibiotics in foreign shrimp farms allows these producers to produce large amounts of shrimp that could not be produced without them.

Solutions offered by this committee:

Several Food Safety Bills in Wash. that provide more money for inspections directly related to shrimp need our support and need to be taken a step further to mirror the shrimp import standards of the European Union where the importers have to pay for their product to be inspected and rejected shipments are destroyed, which discourages further shipments of contaminated shrimp. Again we need to urge our DC legislators to support these actions.

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All product that can't pass EU standards is currently being dumped on our US market and eaten by US consumers and causes our domestic prices to fall.

Food Safety Issues

State Level:

We need to continue to seek State inspection of imported shrimp coming into the state through LA Dept. of Health and Hospitals empowered by the LA Sanitary Code (RS 40:4, RS 40:5, RS 40:604) and/or pass new legislation allowing the LA Dept. of Agriculture to test seafood products.

With the cooperation of the LA Restaurant Association, we need to pass legislation that requires LA restaurants to post where there shrimp comes from. Lets give LA citizens and tourist guests the option to choose to eat our good LA seafood. (Bills to this end failed in 2004 and again in 2008).

We need to continue to support State efforts to discourage re-boxing of imported shrimp into domestic packaging (A Federal Lacy Act violation) by continuing to work with the LA Attorney General's office to use laws presently in force and create legislation to fill in loopholes in our laws.

**NONE OF THE BELOW CAN WORK UNTIL CONTROL OF
ALLEGED RE-BOXING OF IMPORTED SHRIMP INTO
DOMESTIC PACKAGING IS ATTAINED.**

**Obtain money for “Branding” programs (Grants - State/Federal).
Branding programs that are set up properly are protected by Federal
law (Lanham Act).**

**Set up a system to monitor and assure any price increases gained by
these efforts get passed down to the fishermen.**

**Obtain money for necessary improvements to allow for packaging
facilities .**

Seek State and Federal funds for value added processing facilities.

SHORT TERM RELIEF FOR THE SHRIMP INDUSTRY

Katrina/Rita survey disaster program. (Currently in progress, need to speed up award distribution).

Gustav/Ike disaster program. (Currently in progress, need to speed up award distribution).

TAA program under LA Workforce Commission. LSA will work with LWFC to obtain petition for certification of eligibility. Who will handle notification of shrimp industry and distribution of applications?

LA State government needs to take actions that would allow deferment of payments on disaster loans taken out after the hurricanes of 2005 and 2008. (SBA, Small Business Grant Loan Programs).