



Southern Shrimp Alliance

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Breaking News

In November, the Southern Shrimp Alliance filed a lawsuit against U.S. Customs and Border Protection (“Customs”) seeking to prevent the agency from distributing the antidumping duties assessed and collected on the six shrimp antidumping duty orders for fiscal year (“FY”) 2008. The lawsuit is ongoing and distributions have been delayed, but late last week Customs announced how funds will be distributed if the Southern Shrimp Alliance’s lawsuit is unsuccessful.

In total, Customs reported that there are \$32,672,406.95 in collected shrimp antidumping duties to distribute for FY2008. For those funds, the agency reported receiving claims of qualified expenditures of nearly \$3.3 billion. Of the \$3.3 billion in qualified expenditures claimed, over 75 percent of these claims came from *just 59 entities* that submitted claims of over \$10 million in qualified expenditures. In result, the distribution of antidumping duties this year was even more inequitable than it has been in the previous two years, with a small minority of claimants receiving nearly all of the funds available.

The information released by Customs also included troubling revelations regarding who was receiving funds. For example, although the President of the Ocean Springs Seafood Market, Inc. is facing felony charges in the Eastern District of Louisiana for knowingly submitting an application for Byrd funds based on false, fictitious, and/or fraudulent claims, his company, Ocean Springs Seafood Market, had a claim for qualified expenditures accepted for over \$20 million – a far larger claim than the \$8.5 million claim that led to the criminal prosecution for FY2006. Three companies affiliated with Victor Tran, an individual facing criminal trial in the state of Texas for allegedly defrauding a local government in order to receive a \$500,000 loan, had claims for qualified expenditures accepted in excess of over \$100 million.

In addition to these companies, Customs’ reporting indicates that the agency accepted several large claims of qualified expenditures from unloading docks. Such claims – which are wholly unrelated to the domestic production of shrimp – severely diminish the funds received by shrimp fishermen. Unloading docks claim the cost of shrimp purchased from vessels and processors that purchase this shrimp from the unloading docks also claim the cost of the

same shrimp, greatly exaggerating the qualified expenditures involved in the production of shrimp.

A full listing of all parties submitting claims of over \$10 million is provided below, in order of the size of the qualified expenditures claimed for duties collected on the antidumping orders on shrimp from Brazil. The list below demonstrates why the lawsuit filed by the Southern Shrimp Alliance was necessary. A program that was designed by Congress to provide vital assistance to domestic industries materially injured by trade now benefits a small minority of recipients. While it is unknown how many, if any, of these claims are exaggerated or false, the claims listed below raise substantial questions and concerns about how these funds have been distributed.

The Southern Shrimp Alliance remains committed to ensuring that Byrd distributions are made in equitable manner to the benefit of the entire industry. We hope that a review of the claims below will lead some that have opposed the Southern Shrimp Alliance's efforts to date to re-evaluate the wisdom of supporting a program that rewards a select few, including those that have submitted massive claims that defy all explanation.

Should you have any information that would indicate that claims submitted for Byrd funds are false, overstated, or inaccurate, please contact Customs or the Southern Shrimp Alliance.

#	Name	2008 Claim (Brazil)	2006 Claim (or 2007 claim if no 2006 claim)
1	Vietnamese American Commercial Fishermen's Union (VACFU)	\$301,534,658.29	\$110,046,282.88
2	LaFitte Frozen Foods Corp.	\$130,118,503.01	\$77,708,472.98
3	Carson & Co.	\$116,562,489.06	\$48,919,922.63
4	Bama Sea Products	\$116,418,882.00	\$50,045,246.00
5	Bayou Shrimp Processors Inc.	\$103,775,883.77	\$30,546,249.82
6	Crystal Seafood/ Pleasure Island Shrimp House/ Titan Seafood	\$100,475,889.69	\$19,950,000.00
7	Gulf Crown Seafood	\$92,537,619.60	\$46,689,755.00
8	Paul Piazza and Son Inc.	\$90,982,314.21	\$37,870,774.00
9	JBS Packing Co.	\$79,664,695.88	\$41,001,431.00
10	Texas Gulf Seafood	\$70,077,197.85	No previous claims reported
11	CF Gollott & Son Seafood	\$63,923,102.21	\$37,896,814.51
12	Deep Sea Foods Inc.	\$61,294,344.09	\$71,937,003.00
13	Golden Gulf Coast Packing/ Gollott's Oil Dock & Icehouse	\$50,529,641.90	\$31,596,784.29
14	Sea Pearl Seafood	\$49,368,810.18	\$23,649,041.29
15	Gulf Island Shrimp and Seafood II	\$44,028,621.89	\$23,338,322.21
16	Singleton Fisheries Inc.	\$42,828,489.72	No previous claims reported
17	Gulf King Services	\$40,895,833.86	\$20,821,313.00
18	Best Sea Pack of Texas	\$39,680,549.01	\$19,185,194.00
19	Hi Seas of Dulac Inc.	\$38,200,406.84	\$21,051,524.11
20	Seabrook Seafood Inc.	\$37,001,600.13	\$5,567,635.00

21	Western Seafood	\$36,927,903.48	\$1,438,190.10
22	Louisiana Shrimp & Packing	\$35,702,764.17	\$16,070,878.02
23	Dean Blanchard Seafood Inc.	\$35,682,818.45	\$15,813,908.22
24	Custom Pack Inc.	\$34,594,051.37	\$15,965,419.00
25	R A Lesso Brokerage	\$34,263,500.00	\$19,634,700.00
26	Bowers Shrimp/ Bowers Shrimp Farm/ Bowers Valley Shrimp	\$31,720,354.17	\$18,300,094.83
27	Wood Fisheries Inc.	\$31,490,782.47	\$27,975,739.54 (2007)
28	Miss Becky Seafood/ Safe Harbor	\$31,243,651.48	No previous claims reported
29	Ocean Harvest Wholesale Inc.	\$30,619,535.25	\$9,498,872.50
30	International Oceanic Enterprises	\$27,802,682.68	\$16,719,230.60
31	Fulton Seafood	\$27,154,187.73	No previous claims reported
32	Gulf Pride Enterprises	\$24,572,084.41	\$12,377,485.68
33	Mark D. Mavar	\$23,718,396.72	\$10,229,958.21
34	Gulf South Inc.	\$23,130,649.26	\$10,903,466.93
35	Venice Seafood	\$22,692,668.12	\$19,392,323.00 (2007)
36	Ocean Springs Seafood Market Inc.	\$20,867,585.36	\$8,544,483.00
37	Duong Tran dba D & C Seafood Inc.	\$20,592,654.27	\$16,628,642.00 (2007)
38	Trico Shrimp Company Inc.	\$19,590,914.16	\$13,019,428.21
39	Dominicks Seafood Inc.	\$18,409,264.77	\$10,865,876.16
40	Texas Pack Inc.	\$17,145,790.13	\$3,030,565.43
41	Walter M. Smith	\$17,067,899.80	\$7,635,466.00
42	Tommy's Seafood Inc.	\$16,795,033.90	\$7,024,587.00
43	D Ditcharo Jr. Seafoods LLC	\$16,686,828.37	\$220,000.00
44	Gollott Brothers Seafood Co. Inc.	\$16,110,638.38	\$5,969,240.77
45	Palacios Processors Inc.	\$15,963,418.02	No previous claims reported
46	Pearl Inc.	\$15,666,776.90	\$7,239,47.13
47	Wayne Estay Shrimp Co.	\$14,971,800.43	\$1,743,742.79
48	Gulf Fish Inc.	\$14,632,875.88	\$2,574,096.00
49	Bon Secour Fisheries Inc.	\$13,907,309.28	\$932,894.00
50	Fortune Shrimp Company Inc.	\$13,379,901.56	\$9,132,823.62 (2007)
51	Tampa Bay Fisheries	\$13,098,733.34	No previous claims reported
52	Blue Ocean Seafood (Hung V. Huynh)	\$12,796,717.13	No previous claims reported
53	Louisiana Newpack Shrimp Co. Inc.	\$12,653,020.88	\$5,310,530.00
54	Pascagoula Ice & Freezer Co. Inc.	\$12,459,347.26	\$6,592,664.42
55	RCP Seafood Inc.	\$12,014,527.00	\$5,958,734.00
56	Michael Franks	\$11,761,636.29	\$5,219,854.61
57	H&A Seafood LLC	\$11,716,727.02	No previous claims reported
58	Ocean Select Seafood LLC	\$11,223,352.49	\$5,215,690.06
59	Gulf Finest Investment Co.	\$10,435,285.11	No previous claims reported