



The Shrimp E-Advocate

Southern Shrimp Alliance

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BREAKING NEWS

SSA SUPPORTS A "TEST AND REJECT" POLICY FOR IMPORTED SHRIMP

In a letter to the editor published May 10, 2007 on Intrafish.com, SSA supports Intrafish's May 9th editorial that says, "Get the crap out of the food. ...You can be mad at the good ol' boys down south for having the nerve to test the fish, but you really should be ticked at the overseas suppliers who, by now, should know major world markets don't want fish with chloramphenicol, malachite green, fluoroquinolones, or other such gross-sounding stuff. Test everything. Send back the crap."

SSA's response letter states, "Thank you for focusing the industry more on how consumers feel about "unwanted crap" in their food. SSA agrees that testing and rejecting products is the only way to force unethical producers to abandon their practices."

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

SENATE PASSES AMENDMENT TO ENHANCE TESTING OF IMPORTED SEAFOOD

The Senate passed an amendment yesterday that authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to enhance the inspection of shrimp and other

seafood for illegal antibiotics and contaminants. The amendment would require the Secretary to report back to Congress on the steps being taken to ensure that proper inspections are occurring and to report on the feasibility of developing a seafood traceability system.

SSA hopes you will join us in thanking Senator Sessions (R-AL) for sponsoring the amendment and Senators Shelby (R-AL), Cochran (R-MS), Lott (R-MS), Landrieu (D-LA), Vitter (R-LA), Pryor (D-AR) and Lincoln (D-AR) for co-sponsoring the amendment.

Next steps: the House must pass a bill with similar language.

Read Senator Sessions' press release on the amendment at <http://sessions.senate.gov/pressapp/record.cfm?id=273830>

BOARD MEMBER NEWS

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SPOTLIGHT ON - Louisiana

SSA REFUSES MEETING WITH LSA BASED ON AGENDA

Counsel for the Louisiana Shrimp Association (LSA) recently requested a meeting with SSA's counsel and provided a meeting agenda upon SSA's

request. The second and ninth agenda points proposed that LSA share in any settlement funds on a confidential basis (so much for LSA's claims that last year's settlements were improper or illegal). SSA refused the meeting because the proposed agenda made clear that such a meeting would not advance the interests of shrimp fishermen.

SSA will not participate in any discussions or activities that will result in disproportionate benefits to the LSA over all other members of the domestic industry. SSA has no intention of favoring the very few represented by the LSA over the interests of the shrimp industry in all eight shrimp-producing states, including Louisiana, who have supported the trade action in word and deed.

For more on this issue, visit:

<http://shrimpalliance.com/Press%20Releases/5-11-07%20SSA%20Denies%20Meeting%20with%20LSA%20Counsel.pdf>

Giving Louisiana the Facts

Cathy Blanchard, a shrimp fishermen's wife from Cut Off, LA and a SSA Board member, has been informing the Louisiana shrimp industry of SSA's achievements through council meetings, public forums, and media interviews throughout Louisiana. Blanchard uses the opportunities to explain how the LSA is unnecessarily delaying the distribution of more than \$100 million to the U.S. shrimp industry under the Byrd Amendment by tying up antidumping duties in administrative review litigation.

SSA appreciates the time and energy Cathy has dedicated to getting Louisiana the facts.

Responding to Misinformation

The LSA continues to make blatantly false statements to the press about SSA, despite the Louisiana Attorney General's office warning that such comments constitute defamation. For example, LSA's President told the New Orleans City Business on May 7, 2007 that "[SSA] are the domestic processors. The shrimpers of the United States are not really involved with the SSA." Here is SSA's letter to the editor in response:

Dear Editor:

In reference to your May 7, 2007 story "Tariff dispute nets jumbo headaches for shrimpers", the president of the Louisiana Shrimp Association (LSA), A.J. Fabre, falsely states that the Southern Shrimp Alliance (SSA) only represents processors. As Mr. Fabre knows, this is not true.

The membership of SSA is composed primarily of fishermen from Texas to North Carolina, including fishermen throughout Louisiana. These fishermen set aside their differences and came together to work for the common good of the industry. I am on the board of directors of SSA and can tell you that while we don't always agree, we work together to resolve disputes and move forward as one industry. In fact, of the nineteen board members of the SSA, only two are processors.

Now compare the SSA with Mr. Fabre's LSA. The LSA today is not the group that many of us hoped would meaningfully represent shrimp fishermen in Louisiana. Instead, it exists to serve Mr. Fabre's personal agenda. Through manipulation, intimidation, and lawsuits against critics within the LSA, those who have ever disagreed with Mr. Fabre have been forced to leave the organization.

Mr. Fabre's tactics have divided Louisiana shrimpers against each other and LSA's most recent efforts endanger money that would otherwise go to Louisiana shrimpers at the end of this year. In putting badly needed help to shrimpers at risk, Mr. Fabre has gone too far.

Sincerely,
Cathy Blanchard

From our Readers:

We would like to begin to share feedback from our readers. If you have any positive news to share with us and the readers please send us an email to info@shrimpalliance.com, subject line feedback. We look forward to sharing what you have to say.

Unsubscribe at:

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