



The Shrimp e-Advocate

The Southern Shrimp Alliance (SSA) is a non-profit alliance of members of the U.S. shrimp industry in eight states committed to preventing the continued deterioration of America's shrimp industry and to ensuring the industry's future viability. SSA serves as the national voice for the shrimp fishermen and processors in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas.

Deadline for Application for Individual Trade Adjustment Assistance Benefits

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Deadline for Application for Individual Trade Adjustment Assistance Benefits Is Thursday, September 23, 2010; Southern Shrimp Alliance Petitions for Pre-Certified Group of Approval for Shrimpers in 16 Parishes in Louisiana, 21 Counties in Florida, and 2 Counties in South Carolina

Shrimp fishermen interested in receiving technical training and cash benefits under the Trade Adjustment Assistance program for Farmers for fiscal year 2010 operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture must complete and submit a written application to their local Farm Service Agency Service Center **by this Thursday, September 23, 2010.**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture modified the documentation requirements for those seeking benefits under the program at the end of August. As part of the application filed with the Farm Service Agency Service Center, all shrimp fishermen will be required to submit evidence that they landed shrimp in 2008 and in one of the following three years: 2005, 2006, and 2007. Additionally, shrimp fishermen must also have either (1) landed less shrimp in 2008 than in 2007 or (2) received a lower average price for shrimp they landed in 2008 than the average of the price received for shrimp they landed in 2005, 2006, and 2007 to establish eligibility for benefits. The Farm Service Agency Service Center will not require fishermen to provide proof that either the volume or value requirement has been met along with their applications for benefits, however proof that this requirement was met will be required if the agency conducts a spot-check of the application.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's modifications to documentation requirements at the end of August also created the possibility that fishermen would be declared eligible for Trade Adjustment Assistance benefits if they could provide evidence that they landed shrimp in 2008 and in one year during the 2005 to 2007 time period and the Foreign Agricultural Service of the agency determined that fishermen in the

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applicant's region or state generally received prices for shrimp in 2008 that were below the average of prices received by fishermen for shrimp in the same region or state in 2005, 2006, and 2007.

Over the last several weeks, the Southern Shrimp Alliance has worked with Sea Grant officials, academics, state government officials, and NOAA Fisheries to obtain pricing data for shrimp throughout the eight states that would establish eligibility for groups of fishermen. Based on the data received to date, the Southern Shrimp Alliance has requested that the Foreign Agricultural Service grant pre-certification for groups of fishermen in sixteen parishes in Louisiana, twenty-one counties in Florida, and two counties in South Carolina.

The Foreign Agricultural Service has not yet made a determination regarding the Southern Shrimp Alliance's request. However, if granted all shrimp fishermen located in these areas would be eligible for Trade Adjustment Assistance benefits so long as they could provide evidence that they landed shrimp in 2008 and in 2005 or 2006 or 2007. Because a decision on group certification has not yet been made, fishermen in the parishes or counties listed below who meet the individual criteria for benefit eligibility should apply for trade adjustment assistance on those grounds. However, fishermen interested in receiving trade adjustment assistance benefits in the areas listed below who do not meet the individual volume or price decline requirement should nevertheless apply for benefits their local Farm Service Agency Service Center **by Thursday, September 23rd** based on group eligibility.

Louisiana:

- Orleans,
- St. Tammany,
- Tangipahoa,
- St. Charles,
- St. John the Baptist,
- Livingston,
- St. James,
- Ascension,
- Assumption,
- Iberia,
- St. Martin,
- St. Landry,
- Evangeline,
- Lafayette,
- Acadia, and
- Jefferson Davis

Florida:

- Nassau,
- Duval,

- Flagler,
- St. John's,
- Volusia,
- Charlotte,
- Collier
- Hernando,
- Hillsborough,
- Lee,
- Manatee,
- Pasco,
- Pinellas,
- Franklin,
- Wakulla,
- Santa Rosa,
- Okaloosa,
- Walton,
- Levy,
- Citrus, and
- Dixie

South Carolina:

- Jasper, and
- Berkeley