



The Shrimp E-Advocate

Southern Shrimp Alliance

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URGENT CBP NOTICE

Important Notice Regarding Byrd Amendment Distributions

As a result of SSA's efforts, over \$100 million in antidumping duties was distributed to the domestic shrimp industry in FY2006. These Byrd Amendment distributions are essential to the recovery and health of our industry. For this reason, the Southern Shrimp Alliance has met on numerous occasions with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) over the last few months to encourage the agency to ensure that Byrd funds are distributed in a fair and equitable manner. The Southern Shrimp Alliance has requested that CBP verify a substantial number of certifications filed.

In a recent meeting with CBP representatives, the Southern Shrimp Alliance was informed that CBP will soon begin verifications of Byrd certifications filed in fiscal year 2006. These verifications are scheduled to commence the first week of March and will continue throughout the spring.

CBP has advised the Southern Shrimp Alliance as to the following:

- 1) All recipients of Byrd funds should carefully review their certifications to ensure that they are accurate and that recipients are able to support how all of the qualified expenditures claimed are determined to be related to the production of the product covered by the antidumping orders.
- 2) Should a recipient determine that there is an error or mistake in a certification, the recipient should immediately contact CBP and report any issues. Specifically, Daune Robinson should be contacted directly at 202-344-2449 or by e-mail at daune.robinson@dhs.gov.
- 3) For the purposes of determining the “enforcement consequences” of any errors or mistakes in filings, CBP will consider when the agency is informed about any problems. Notification of errors prior to any contact initiated by CBP may mitigate potential “enforcement consequences.” Delaying notification of errors until CBP has conducted a verification may have the opposite effect.

The Southern Shrimp Alliance believes that verifications of Byrd claims are an essential part of ensuring that funds are distributed in a fair and equitable manner. In addition to verifications, the Southern Shrimp Alliance will continue to work with CBP to achieve Byrd distributions that benefit everyone in the domestic industry.

BREAKING NEWS

Shrimp Vessel Moratorium Permits Required

Beginning March 26, 2007

All shrimp vessel owners are reminded that a commercial shrimp vessel moratorium permit needs to be issued and aboard vessels fishing for or possessing shrimp in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico beginning on March 26, 2007.

Applications for a moratorium vessel permit are available via NOAA Fisheries Service's Southeast Regional web site at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>. The application may be filled out online, printed and mailed to the Permits Branch, along with all other pertinent information and payments.

NOAA Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office

Permits Branch

263 13th Avenue South

St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Phone: 727-824-5326; FAX 727-551-5747

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

CBP Collects Improper Byrd Amendment Distributions

Shrimp fishermen and processors that received distributions under the CDSOA ("Byrd Amendment") in December are receiving letters from CBP that explain additional monies will be made available. The funds that are now available were overpayments to a few individual companies and have been recollected. The total amount of money to be re-distributed is estimated to be around \$3.4 million, so the checks to individual companies will be significantly less than the original payment. CBP is continuing to verify claims of qualifying expenditures.

SAFMC Meeting March 5-9

John Williams, Richard Vendetti and Glenn Delaney will represent the SSA at the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council meeting in Georgia on March 5-9. Agenda items include a discussion of ecosystem-based management, a report from the Shrimp Committee, and the rock shrimp "use it or lose it" policy. SSA opposes the current rock shrimp criteria and will be monitoring and addressing other issues as they are discussed.

INDUSTRY NEWS AND MEETINGS

SSA Meetings with Industry Continue

In February, SSA hosted Town Hall Meetings throughout North Carolina, kicking off a large-scale effort to bring information about SSA activities directly to the industry. In March, this effort continues with dockside workshops and presentations at association meetings in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. These opportunities are meant to inform the industry of SSA's positions, to answer your questions, and to seek direct feedback from you. Please grab an industry friend and join SSA as we visit areas near you.

Tentative Dates:

March 17: Shrimp Producers Association meeting in Yulee, FL at 6:00pm.

March 19 – 21: Dockside workshops in northern South Carolina

March 22 – 23: Dockside workshops in Cape Canaveral, FL

March 27: Georgia Shrimp Association meeting in Brunswick, GA

For additional information contact Richard Vendetti at 912.222.8796.

Gulf Council Meeting March 26-30

The Gulf Council is expected to provide a public draft of its recommendations to end the overfishing of red snapper at the March 26-30 meeting in Destin, FL. SSA representatives will be attending

the meeting and commenting on the draft.

BOARD MEMBER NEWS

SSA Prepares for DC Visit March 13-15

SSA Board members will meet in DC on March 13-15 to bring SSA's priority issues to our Congress and the Administration. Items to be discussed with elected officials include the status of the trade actions, the need for fair and equitable distributions of CDSOA (Byrd) funds, and requests for additional federal appropriations for FDA testing of imported shrimp, effort research, and marketing. Maintaining or increasing government spending in 2008 is expected to be difficult given the political climate and expense of the ongoing war.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTACT INFORMATION

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Craig Wallis – lswallis@hotmail.com

SPOTLIGHT ON - Trade Action Update

Dusted Shrimp Update

Antidumping duties on certain frozen, warmwater shrimp imports from six countries do not apply to shrimp defined by the Department of Commerce as “dusted.” So-called “dusted” shrimp refers to an insubstantial addition (as little as four percent of the total weight) of rice or wheat flour to shrimp. Since “dusted” shrimp are not substantially different from other frozen shrimp, SSA believes strongly that the law requires that antidumping duties apply to the product.

SSA appealed the Department of Commerce’s exclusion of so-called “dusted” shrimp to the U.S. Court of International Trade. More than a year after final argument in the case, the Court of International Trade issued a decision denying the appeal on procedural grounds. The Court did not rule on the substance of the appeal. SSA is considering

its legal options, including whether to appeal this decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

From our Readers:

A message from Joseph Rodriguez:

My name is Joseph Rodriguez, I have been a Member of SSA for some time and served on the board of directors for two years or so. I would like to say a big "THANK YOU" for everyone who has given of their time, money and energies to fight for our industry. While there is always going to be some reason to complain, and some battles that don't exactly turn out the way we would have hoped, SSA has been a savior and warrior for the domestic industry. War on... THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

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.

GUEST Column - WASI

Roy E. Martin joins the WASI staff

WASI recently hired Roy E. Martin of Spring Hill, Florida to assist with the certification program as Certification Coordinator. Roy is well known and respected in the seafood arena with 27 years of experience working with the National Fisheries Institute where he headed up the science and technology department. Roy will be an asset to our certification efforts by working with WASI Approved Suppliers to assure successful implementation of the program.

Shrimper Timmy Cheramie featured on Emeril Live!

March 4th, 8pm on the FoodNetwork

On Sunday, March 4th at 8pm, tune into the FoodNetwork for Emeril Live! The show features shrimper Timmy Chermie and includes a heart-warming segment filmed on location with Timmy at his home in Louisiana.

Boston Seafood Show March 11 – 13 and WASI Hospitality Event on March 10

WASI will generate excitement about Wild American Shrimp at the show by sponsoring a sweepstakes where participants have to visit all WASI state member booths to become eligible for a fabulous gift. A two-page spread ad in the Show issues of Seafood Business will announce the event and feature logos from member states. Certified supplier lists and product literature will be available for retailers and other prospects who visit the booth. Also, on Saturday, March 10th starting at 6:30pm at CROMA restaurant, WASI is hosting a hospitality opportunity for retailers, distributors, supporters, media and other industry. There will be heavy hors d'oeuvres featuring three dishes prepared from three different types of Certified Wild American shrimp as well as a wine pairings sponsored by Constellation Wines.

WASI Evaluator Training Sessions

WASI is running training sessions to accompany the new standards and evaluation process. Successful completion of the training is required for companies to be able to evaluate product for certification! The training sessions will cover all aspects of attribute evaluation. Many seafood experts from University Extension Services as well as Jim Barnett, one of the FDA's most prominent sensory specialists will be in attendance. Registration forms are available from WASI for Approved Suppliers who would like to send participants to attend any one of the training sessions.

March 6 – 8: Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with Jon Bell from LSU

March 20 – 22: Charleston, South Carolina, with Chip Boling from Clemson

May 2 – 3: Gainesville, Florida, with Steve Otwell from University of

Florida

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