



# The Shrimp e-Advocate

**BREAKING NEWS**

**APRIL 2010**

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.

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## **BREAKING NEWS**

It is with great pleasure that I announce that the Southern Shrimp Alliance yesterday filed a petition to the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) for certification of eligibility of domestic shrimp producers to receive trade adjustment assistance pursuant to the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Farmers program

Domestic fishermen are considered eligible "producers" under this program which was reauthorized and modified by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

SSA expects approval of the petition by FAS no later than the end of May, 2010.

Once approved, this petition will enable individual shrimp fishermen to apply for technical assistance and cash benefits of up to \$12,000 for the development and implementation of approved business adjustment plans.

SSA will play an active role in working with FAS and the various State Sea Grant offices to facilitate the participation of individual shrimp fishermen in the required series of technical assistance (training) sessions and the preparation of initial and long-term business plans.

The domestic shrimp fisheries have been hit hard by a series of adverse circumstances including devastating hurricanes, high fuel prices and historically low dockside price. US shrimpers and the many coastal communities that depend on this fishery need all the help they can get and so SSA was proud to submit this petition on their behalf.

SSA was able to submit this petition only with the extraordinary assistance and cooperation among the State Sea Grant offices in all 8 warm-water shrimp producing states from North Carolina to Texas and the various seafood organizations in those states. SSA

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**Executive Director**

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would like to especially thank Dr. Michael Haby of the Texas Sea Grant office for his remarkable contributions to this effort.

I think the filing of this petition is a prime example of how industry can come together for a common good and by working in concert with all of the folks involved, a great product was produced and we anticipate a great result. When folks in each of the eight states give of their time freely to help this industry, it becomes very clear that this is a Southern Shrimp Alliance. While all may not be members of the Southern Shrimp Alliance Inc, banding together for a purpose such as this makes our industry a Southern Shrimp Alliance. Regardless of whether the USDA/FAS accepts our petition or not, it my sincerest hopes that those in our industry that are prone to self-interest and greed and have no interest in a unified voice, take notice. You are few and the industry is many.

Again, the Southern Shrimp Alliance would like to extend our sincere gratitude for all of the folks involved in making this happen and we are very proud to be a part of this collaborative effort to continue to help our industry.

John Williams  
Executive Director  
Southern Shrimp Alliance