

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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[SSA Website](#)

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BREAKING NEWS

SSA To File TAA Petition On Behalf Of Shrimp Industry

Over the past weeks, SSA has been working with several shrimp fishermen, state shrimp association leaders and Sea Grant Programs throughout the southeast to determine the best strategy for submitting a successful petition for TAA on behalf of the shrimp industry. Critical questions regarding the program's procedures and eligibility requirements caused the eight state industry to convene in several conference calls and ultimately, to request additional information of the Foreign Agricultural Service, a division of the USDA. Based on those answers, late last week the decision was finally made for SSA to submit a petition on behalf of the eight coastal states in the southeastern US from North Carolina to Texas.

The USDA launched the TAA program petition period for 2010 just last month. The program will provide technical assistance and cash benefits to U.S. producers and fishermen of raw agricultural commodities who meet eligibility requirements and whose crops or catch have been adversely affected by imports of like or directly competitive commodities.

However, before individual producers and fishermen can apply for benefits, a commodity organization or a group of producers must submit a petition to FAS. Because the period for submitting a petition is relatively short, it was important for industries seeking eligibility to organize and act quickly so as to meet the deadline for petitions.

We are happy to play a role in helping the (shrimp) industry carefully evaluate the process on this." said SSA Executive Director John Williams. "But believe me, this was a real team effort and SSA welcomes the opportunity to work in conjunction with the many Sea Grant Programs and various state organizations from the eight southeastern U.S."

If the petition is approved, the TAA for Farmers Program will provide free technical assistance and cash benefits to

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eligible producers of raw agricultural commodities and fishermen who have been hurt by import competition. Eligible agricultural or fishing industry groups must first file a petition with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service demonstrating that imports contributed importantly to a greater than 15 percent decline in their national average price, or quantity of production, or value of production, or cash receipts for their raw products.

"There are certainly no guarantees on approval, but we feel confident in being able to submit a strong petition based on the available information by the April 14th deadline." said Williams. "Then it will be up to the USDA".