



The Shrimp e-Advocate

Breaking News Edition

June 2007

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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 Files Defamation Suit Against the Louisiana Shrimp Association

SSA filed a defamation lawsuit against the Louisiana Shrimp Association (LSA) and its officers on June 14th. Despite SSA's achievements on behalf of the shrimp industry at large, the organization has been the subject of a smear campaign launched by the Louisiana Shrimp Association (LSA). LSA and its officers have repeatedly and publicly alleged that SSA "stole", "took", or "skimmed" money from shrimp fishermen.

According to SSA's executive director, John Williams: "LSA's allegations are patently untrue and have created an unhealthy conflict among Louisiana shrimpers, many of whom support SSA, at a time when we should all be working together. We do not have this conflict in any other state represented by SSA." Accordingly, in order to protect its hard-earned reputation as an asset to the domestic shrimp industry at large, and in the hopes of putting a halt to LSA's smear campaign, SSA has filed a defamation lawsuit.

Among the many activities undertaken by SSA to aid the domestic shrimp industry -- which include the development of marketing plans for domestic shrimp, lobbying for more stringent controls of testing banned chemicals, assisting in the passage of new regulations concerning the shrimp industry -- SSA successfully prosecuted an international trade action against Brazil, China, Ecuador, India, Thailand, and Vietnam. As a result, members of the domestic shrimp industry have received over \$100 million in financial relief from foreign exporters of shrimp to date, with more relief expected.

Shrimpers Must Reduce Red Snapper Bycatch Mortality 74%

The Gulf Council voted last week on a management plan to end overfishing of red snapper. SSA testified to adverse impacts of the plan on the shrimp industry and raised concerns about the plan's scientific basis. Despite SSA's serious concerns, the final plan requires that shrimpers reduce red snapper bycatch mortality by 74% from the average levels five years ago. The rebuilding plan includes a relaxation of the shrimp bycatch reduction requirement in 2011 to 67% and a further phase down to 60% by 2032 as the red snapper stocks recover. The management plan also includes a reduction in the directed fishery's total allowable catch from 9.12 million pounds to 5 million. The original plan opposed by SSA would

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have required the 74% target to be achieved for the next 25 years.

SSA supported an alternative plan set forth in the A27/14 Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) to end overfishing of red snapper through a 60 percent reduction in juvenile red snapper bycatch by the shrimp industry and a greater reduction in the adult red snapper caught by the directed fishery. A study released by NMFS last week demonstrates that by the end of 2006 the shrimp industry had already achieved a 65% reduction in shrimp bycatch mortality.*

*Edits and corrections made June 15, 2007.

SAFMC to Repeal Rock Shrimp "Use It or Lose It" Policy

The South Atlantic Council's Shrimp Committee recommended a repeal of the current "Use It or Lose It" provision for the rock shrimp fishery at its June 11-15 meeting in Key West, FL. SSA brought the outdated policy to the Council's attention nine months ago when it became obvious that the "Use It or Lose It" policy would prohibit 51% of the rock shrimp industry from obtaining a limited access permit because they did not land more than 15,000 pounds of rock shrimp in a year.

Assuming the plan amendment is ultimately approved, an unknown number of boats may tentatively lose their rock shrimp permit if their current permit is set to expire before the amendment is implemented. In such cases, the permits will be automatically reinstated if the amendment passes in its current form. SSA will continue to work with regulators on implementing the change as quickly as possible.

Lou Dobbs Highlights China's Seafood Safety Problems

On May 31, 2007, CNN anchor Lou Dobbs told his near one million nightly viewers that contaminated seafood from China has already entered the U.S. market. The story highlighted the failures of FDA to inspect 99% of the seafood that enters the United States and warned consumers of the filth and banned antibiotics found on seafood like shrimp. The news segment included John Williams, SSA's executive director, and part of the Wild American Shrimp commercial. You can read the transcript at <http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0705/31/ldt.01.html>