



The Shrimp E-Advocate

Southern Shrimp Alliance

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BREAKING NEWS

Louisiana's Largest Shrimping Communities Oppose LSA Actions

In late April, the Terrebonne Parish Council and Lafourche Parish Council passed resolutions that request the Louisiana Shrimp Association ("LSA") to withdraw its request for federal review of antidumping tariffs. Without the withdrawal of the administrative reviews, LSA endangers antidumping duties and delays potentially more than \$100 million dollars that may be distributed to the U.S. shrimp industry in 2007 pursuant to the Continued Dumping & Subsidy Offset Act ("CDSOA" or "Byrd Amendment"). If antidumping duties are not collected because they are under review, Byrd Amendment funds cannot be distributed to the shrimp industry.

REGULATORY NEWS

Rock Shrimp Advisory Panel Meets

John Williams, executive director of the Southern Shrimp Alliance, attended the Rock Shrimp Advisory Panel meeting in Charleston, SC on May 1-2, 2007. The Rock Shrimp Advisory Panel unanimously recommended a repeal

of the current "Use it or Lose it" provision for the rock shrimp fishery. SSA opposes the outdated policy, which states that if a limited access rock shrimp permit is "not active" during a 48 month period (4 calendar years) it will not be renewed. A rock shrimp limited access permit is considered inactive if the vessel lands less than 15,000 pounds of rock shrimp in a year. Today, only 61 boats remain eligible to purchase a rock shrimp permit under the "use it or lose it" criteria due to significant changes in the U.S. shrimp industry.

The meeting also included a presentation on the Council's Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP), on which SSA previously submitted formal written comments to the South Atlantic Council. This plan has the potential to result in additional draconian restrictions on shrimp fishing in the South Atlantic to protect coral and other sensitive habitats. SSA's comments focused on the need to substantially update the seriously outdated information on which the draft FEP is currently based because the shrimp fishery and any impacts on the ecosystem have changed dramatically in recent years. All fishery management plans must be based on the best scientific information available and SSA made clear that this draft plan does not meet that statutory mandate.

Texas Great Barrier Reef

SSA submitted formal written comments to the US Army Corps of Engineers in opposition to the proposal to create a very large artificial reef off the Texas coast--known as the Texas Great Barrier Reef proposal. SSA's comments focused on potential impacts to the shrimp industry and that the project warranted a full-blown environmental impact statement (EIS) which would document unacceptable impacts on the shrimp fishery.

Magnuson-Stevens Implementation

SSA submitted oral and formal written comments to NMFS concerning their implementation of the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act (MSRA) provisions concerning annual catch limits, ending overfishing and accountability measures as they relate to National Standard 1 Guidelines. These guidelines are at the core of the development of fishery management plans, amendments and regulations. SSA's comments focused on the exemption SSA secured in the MSRA for "annual species" (i.e. shrimp). This exemption applies to the requirement for all fisheries to have annual catch limits such as TACs which do not make biological sense for annual species. . NMFS will eventually prepare and implement new National Standard 1 Guidelines as a result of this process and SSA will remain active in this process.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

SSA Sponsors Working Waterfronts Symposium

Preserving working waterfronts is a 2007 legislative priority for SSA, which is

why SSA is a proud sponsor of Working Waterways & Waterfronts 2007. The three-day national conference (May 9-11, 2007) offers a unique opportunity for public officials, academics, fishery management professionals, and the fishing and boating industries to exchange ideas and develop potential collaboration strategies that address our water access needs. Through presentations and panel discussions attendees will learn about local, state, and national-level initiatives designed to address issues of water access and water-dependent industries. For more information, visit www.wateraccess2007.com.

SSA Works Towards Fair and Equitable Byrd Distributions

SSA continues to address the inequitable distribution of Byrd Amendment funds.

SSA's concerns about the disparity in the amounts received by shrimpers and processors led us to push Customs to verify a substantial number of claims for Byrd funds. Customs is verifying an unprecedented 66 recipients accounting for a very sizeable portion of all distributions. SSA understands that the verifications that Customs is conducting for the shrimp industry are more than the total verifications conducted by the agency since Byrd distributions were first made in 2001.

Second, SSA will request a ruling from Customs to the effect that shrimp inputs are not qualified expenditures under the Byrd Amendment.

Third, SSA will continue to work with elected officials from our eight member states to address the current law with appropriate legislation as this Congress proceeds.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS AND MEETINGS

SSA Gives Funds to Member States

SSA has authorized the distribution of more than \$1,100,000 in this fiscal year to member states to enhance their marketing and other programs that will benefit the domestic shrimp industry. Checks have been issued for the Mississippi Department of Natural Resources, the Organized Seafood Association of Alabama, the South Carolina Shrimpers Association Marketing Board, and the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board. Additional checks are scheduled for the Georgia Shrimp Association and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

The SSA funds originated from 104 foreign shrimp exporters that reached negotiated agreements with SSA of the first administrative reviews.

The monies paid to SSA by foreign shrimp exporters are being used to enhance the U.S. shrimp industry through a variety of initiatives, such as to defend the antidumping duties, to represent the shrimp industry in fisheries

management councils, to enhance marketing of U.S. wild-caught shrimp, and to represent the industry in future years.

Informational Meetings Scheduled

SSA will be hosting or attending meetings in several states throughout May. These opportunities are meant to inform the industry of SSA's positions and activities, *to answer your questions*, and to seek direct feedback from you. Please let the people you work with know when these meetings are and use these meetings to join SSA as we visit areas near you.

Tentative Dates:

May 17-19: Southeastern Fisheries Association Annual Meeting (Tampa, FL)

May 17-19: Texas Shrimp Association Annual Meeting (Galveston, TX)

May 22-25: Dockside meetings in and around Beaufort and Hilton Head, SC

May 28-31: Dockside meetings in FL Panhandle (Appalachicola, Port St. Joe, Pensacola)

For additional information contact Richard Vendetti at 912.222.8796.

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WASI NEWS

Versaggi Family Story Reaches Thousands of Coastal Living Readers

The newly released May issue of Coastal Living contains a great article on the Versaggi family as well as a heartfelt letter from the editor supporting the domestic shrimping industry. Articles like this one are a big part of what WASI is all about by helping to educate consumers about the importance that shrimping plays in our American heritage.

Consumer media is one of the most effective ways we have of getting the message out about the domestic, wild caught shrimp industry. We know the significance of our message lies in the fact that shrimping is about people, and family, and a way of life that helped shape this country. We also know that people truly prefer to eat wild-caught, domestic shrimp thereby supporting domestic shrimping families.

If they know they have a choice of "imported pond raised or Wild American Shrimp", we know what they will choose. We at WASI cannot think of a

better way of getting the word out about this choice than by lifting up families like the Versaggi family and telling their story to sophisticated consumers through a magazine like Coastal Living.

International Association of Culinary Professionals

Attracting culinary professionals from a wide variety of backgrounds, the IACP conference in Chicago was well attended with more than 1500 attendees representing the culinary industry. Professional chefs, culinary school leaders and educators, and consumer media representatives passed by the WASI booth to sample Certified Wild American Shrimp and to learn about the difference between domestic, wild-caught shrimp and the imported, pond-raised variety. Of particular interest to these culinary influencers was the fact that Certified Wild American Shrimp represents a local, natural, sustainable and antibiotic free choice in the marketplace.

A significant amount of networking was done at the WASI sponsored Culinary Trust dinner where nationally recognized chefs Dean Max and Nathalie Dupree used Certified Wild American Shrimp in their recipes. The dinner was attended by 200 major culinary influencers.

Culinary Institute of America's Shrimp Week

The Culinary Institute of America located in Hyde Park, New York hosted Wild American Shrimp during their first ever "Shrimp Week" during the week of April 23rd. Classes and seminars revolved around shrimp and covered such topics as wild vs. farm-raised, domestic vs. imported, quality characteristics, how to buy, store, and prepare, and how to distinguish between the three primary warm water species. Students and professors got to use Certified Wild American Shrimp during class preparation as well as in many of the on-campus restaurants and cafes. Additionally, chef advocate, Chris Hastings, prepared Certified Wild American Shrimp for a select group of faculty, staff, students and alumni at a special dinner where he spoke at length about the merits of the certified product.

From our Readers:

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.

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