



The Shrimp e-Advocate

BREAKING NEWS

FEBRUARY 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.

Quick Links

[SSA Website](#)

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BREAKING NEWS

Please watch this WSBTV news video--its only about 3 minutes long.

<http://www.wsbtv.com/video/22504113/index.html>

It portrays an extremely unfortunate side of the US shrimp processing industry which, as described in the video, has served to further compound the devastating financial impacts of farm-raised shrimp imports on US shrimp fishermen who continue to be paid historically-low prices at the docks.

As you will see, federal investigators are working on numerous cases nationwide where farm-raised shrimp imports are being deliberately repackaged and/or mislabeled as domestic shrimp.

In addition to being a federal felony, packing foreign farm-raised shrimp into domestic wild shrimp boxes completely undermines the objectives of the domestic shrimp industry's marketing efforts to carve-out a small niche market for high quality domestic shrimp free from dangerous veterinary drugs, antibiotics and pesticides often used by foreign shrimp farmers. Contaminated shrimp easily gets into the US marketplace because the FDA inspects only 1-2 percent of the 1.6 billion pounds of shrimp imports annually.

As you may know, wild domestic shrimp is often described by well-known chefs and 'foodies' as having superior taste and texture to that of farm-raised shrimp. These superior qualities and being chemical-free can enable wild domestic shrimp to command a premium price in the US market.

However, if US consumers are deceived into thinking they are buying domestic shrimp but end up eating the inferior imported farm-raised shrimp, obviously they will conclude erroneously that wild domestic shrimp is no better than imported after all-- and that it is not worth paying a little more for it.

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In the meantime, some corrupt US shrimp processors are reaping short-term illegal profits from selling their cheap imported farm-raised shrimp at the higher wild domestic shrimp prices.

Given all of the incredible struggles faced by shrimp fishermen in the Gulf and South Atlantic regions, the Southern Shrimp Alliance congratulates the efforts of NMFS and other law enforcement investigators and prays that this despicable, greed-driven practice by some US shrimp processors will be dealt with in the most severe manner available under the law.