



# The Shrimp E-Advocate

Southern Shrimp Alliance

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## **BREAKING NEWS**

### **BYRD VERIFICATION UPDATE**

SSA continues to work with the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and key Senate offices on verification of CDSOA (Byrd) payments with respect to the domestic shrimp industry. Our understanding is that CBP is sending teams into the field to conduct on-site verification in February. Claimants will be expected to produce financial documentation to support their claims of qualified expenditures. Evidence of fraud that is uncovered will be forwarded to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for prosecution. The verifications are expected to be completed by mid-March.

## **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

## **UPDATE ON ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEWS**

The Department of Commerce is scheduled to announce preliminary rulings on "administrative reviews" at the end of February. The purpose of the administrative review is to calculate the actual amount of dumping that occurred in a specific time period since antidumping duties were imposed. They can result in the antidumping duty rates increasing or decreasing for the individual companies participating in the process. This first administrative review (AR 1) is of shrimp imports from the July 2004 to January 2006. The final rulings are expected in August.

## **SSA SUPPORTS ENHANCED BONDS**

On December 26<sup>th</sup>, SSA submitted comments to the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in support of "enhanced bonding requirements." The enhanced (or continuous) bonding policy requires importers to obtain a bond equal to the value of the antidumping duties on their previous years' subject shrimp imports. The policy protects the U.S. shrimp industry by ensuring that antidumping duties can be collected.

For example, if the antidumping duty rates increase as the result of administrative reviews, the CBP will have to collect additional duties from shrimp importers. If the importers could not pay the higher duty rate, the U.S. trade laws would be undermined and shrimpers wouldn't get the relief they deserve. The enhanced bonds make it more likely that CBP will be able to collect the duties owed.

## **CAN CHINESE SHRIMP BE SUBSIDIZED?**

Historically, the Department of Commerce (DOC) has held that in non-market economies, like China, subsidies cannot be measured. Therefore, duties allowed under U.S. trade law to offset subsidies

cannot be applied to non-market economies.

However, the DOC is considering changing their position. On January 12<sup>th</sup>, SSA provided comments to the Department of Commerce that support a change to the policy that would allow U.S. countervailing (anti-subsidy) laws to apply to imports from China. If this policy is changed, it is believed the SSA would have a strong case to seek additional duties on Chinese shrimp imports to offset benefits given to Chinese shrimp producers and processors by the Chinese government.

## INDUSTRY NEWS AND MEETINGS

### SSA TO HOST TOWN HALL MEETINGS IN 2007

Richard Vendetti has been hired to help SSA communicate with the industry. As Director of Field operations, Vendetti will be conducting town hall meetings throughout the eight member states to inform the industry of SSA's positions and activities on key issues, to answer your questions, and to seek direct feedback from you. Please grab an industry friend and join SSA as we visit areas near you.

Three Town Hall Meetings are scheduled in North Carolina during the first week of February. Meeting dates and locations are as follows:

**February 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm:** NCDENR Regional Office; 943 Washington Square Mall; Washington, NC 27889

**February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm:** Sneads Ferry Community Center; 126 Park Lane; Sneads Ferry, NC 28460

**February 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm:** Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Office; 25 Referendum Dr.; Bolivia, NC 28422

**Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>** during the SCSA meeting: Beaufort Air Station; Beaufort, SC

For additional information contact Richard Vendetti at 912.222.8796.

### **PALACIOS HARBOR MEETING ON FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>**

A Palacios harbor DO TMDL meeting has been scheduled for February 20, 2007 from 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM at the Palacios Recreation Center; 2401 Perryman; Palacios, TX. Please feel free to forward this meeting announcement to anyone who has an interest in this project or the Palacios Harbor area's water quality. The Tuesday evenings meeting should be of special interest to shrimpers and area stakeholders. An agenda will be forth coming. Also, the new TCEQ Project Manager, Roger Miranda will be introduced. Come and meet him!

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/62-matagorda.html>

### **BOARD MEMBER NEWS**

#### **SSA BOARD SETS PRIORITIES AND ELECTS OFFICERS FOR '07**

This January, the SSA Board of Directors met in Biloxi. The meeting established SSA's 2007 priorities, which include defending the trade actions, ensuring fair and equitable distributions of CDSOA (Byrd) funds, and securing federal appropriations for FDA testing of imported shrimp, effort research, and marketing. The Board also re-elected Elaine Knight as president, Sal Versaggi as vice president, Craig Wallis as secretary, and Mickey Johnson as treasurer.

## **SHRIMPERS TO VISIT DC MARCH 13-15**

Every year, SSA board members visit Washington, DC to meet with Members of Congress from each of our eight member states. The purpose of the trip is to alert the Senators and Representatives of SSA's 2007 legislative goals. This year's trip will be March 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **SSA OFFICE AT DEWEY BALLANTINE**

SSA's executive director often travels to Washington, DC on behalf of the U.S. shrimp industry and Dewey Ballantine, SSA's law firm, has provided an office to the SSA in their new office building as a workspace for SSA issues during these visits. This gives John Williams a productive workspace in between meetings with lawyers, governmental agencies, and elected officials. We thank the law firm for accommodating SSA while we are in town and know that the new office will help SSA be more productive as it represents the interests of its membership.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTACT INFORMATION**

**North Carolina:** Nancy Edens - [keywestnative57@yahoo.com](mailto:keywestnative57@yahoo.com)

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## **SPOTLIGHT ON - Red Snapper**

### **GULF COUNCIL DEBATES ACTION ON RED SNAPPER**

Traditionally, the burden of protecting over fished red snapper stocks

has been placed squarely on the U.S. shrimp industry despite scientific evidence that further reductions in shrimp bycatch will not end over fishing of red snapper. The directed fishery has not had a reduction in total allowable catch for over a decade, whereas shrimpers have reduced their bycatch by over 60% during the same time period.

SSA hired Glen Delaney to present the scientific and economic consequences of the Council's policies on the shrimp industry. As a result of our new relationships and educational efforts, the Council has recognized that reforms should no longer focus primarily on the shrimp industry. The Council and National Marine Fisheries Service have proposed sizeable reductions in the directed fishery's total allowable catch. This significant change in position is a good first step for the Council. SSA will continue to work towards preventing unnecessary regulations on the shrimp industry in the name of red snapper protection.

### **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](mailto:info@shrimpalliance.com), subject line feedback. We look forward to sharing what you have to say.

### **GUEST Column - WASI**

EMERIL LIVE MARCH 4TH SHOW  
FEATURES TIMMY CHERAMIE AND WILD AMERICAN SHRIMP

Tune in to catch the excitement: "Wild, Wonderful Shrimp" will be the theme of Emeril Live to air on Food Network 8:00 p.m. March 4. Shrimp boat owner and net maker Timmy Cheramie will be featured in the opening video and Emeril will demonstrate the fabulous taste distinctions of Wild American Shrimp to millions of loyal viewers.

### **IN-STORE DEMOS WITH CHEFS USA**

In December and January, Chefs USA ran cooking demonstrations

using Certified Wild American Shrimp in select grocery stores. Starting in March, WASI is partnering with a premium wine company, a premium olive oil company, and a premium spice company to do more demos at select grocers across the country. This partnering with established premium brands where Certified Wild American Shrimp is the main draw is a major step forward in our marketing effort.

### **NEW CERTIFICATION STANDARDS AND PROCESS**

The WASI board recently approved new certification standards as well as a new process for certification. Companies who are signed up as Approved Suppliers will be able to have product evaluated for certification by third-party individuals or company employees that have successfully completed the WASI Training Program.

The new program will provide more opportunities for Approved Suppliers to add "Certified Wild American Shrimp" to their product offerings. This increased access comes at a critical time as WASI marketing efforts increase consumer demand for Certified Wild American shrimp.

Current and new suppliers wishing to participate in the program are required to visit [www.certifiedshrimp.com](http://www.certifiedshrimp.com) to register. For information on how to register visit the [www.certifiedshrimp.com](http://www.certifiedshrimp.com) site and simply click on "How To Register".

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