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SSA Meets with FDA on Enhancing Testing of Imported Shrimp

In May, SSA and FDA officials discussed the agency's enhanced efforts to enforce bans on imported shrimp contaminated with illegal antibiotics. SSA presented data regarding antibiotic-contaminated shrimp from India, the largest shrimp exporter to the U.S. and one of the worst violators.

In 2021, SSA worked with Congress to fund improved oversight of imported shrimp. With these resources, the FDA developed new approaches to screen shrimp and created AI tools to identify risky shipments. **In February 2023, FDA reported back to Congress on its activities to enhance the safety of imported seafood, focusing on shrimp.**



During its meeting, SSA raised concerns with the report and advocated for better enforcement of existing consumer protection laws. It also underscored the crippling impact such imports have on the U.S. shrimp market and multi-generational U.S. businesses.

2

Addressing Forced Labor in Foreign Shrimp Supply Chains

At the request of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, SSA provided feedback on a bill to strengthen U.S. laws to prevent the importation of seafood produced in Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fisheries or with the illegal use of forced labor.

U.S. shrimpers should never compete with slave labor or illegal fishing. Yet, that is happening today. Therefore, SSA works tirelessly to prevent the importation of all forms of unlawful shrimp. With that goal in mind, SSA presented its comments in meetings with the bill's lead author, Senator Sullivan (R-AK), and the Senate Committee.

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3 NMFS Spend Plan to Develop a New ELB System



Read the Shrimp
AP summary brief

Congress appropriated \$850,000 to help develop a new ELB system at SSA's request. The old ELBs provided vital fishing effort data to keep the fishery open and reduce conflict between shrimpers and other offshore businesses.

At its May 18 meeting, the Shrimp Advisory Panel reviewed the NMFS proposed plan to spend these funds. The plan focused primarily on using Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) technology. The Shrimp AP recommended several revisions to the proposed spend plan, such as:

1. Include VMS-alternative tracking devices for testing and early adoption programs so shrimpers have choices;
2. Allocate funds to develop a platform for VMS devices to communicate data to the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center rather than the Office of Law Enforcement.

NMFS made limited revisions to its budget based on the Shrimp AP recommendations, which it will bring to the Gulf Council for consideration this week.

4 ITC: Duties Needed to Protect Shrimpers from Dumped Shrimp Imports

The U.S. shrimp industry once again proved that imported shrimp "adversely impacts" the U.S. shrimp industry. As a result, the International Trade Commission unanimously voted to continue antidumping duties on frozen warmwater shrimp from China, India, Thailand, and Vietnam. These four countries supplied half of the 2022 volume of frozen warmwater shrimp imported into the United States.

The antidumping duty orders will not be reviewed again until June of 2028. The continuation of the duties was only possible because of the robust participation of industry members in the sunset review. In total, 329 shrimp fishing and farming businesses provided information to the Commission to support the continuation of trade relief. This set a new record for harvester participation, with these companies representing over 21 percent of the shrimp produced in 2021. Nineteen shrimp processors also provided information to the agency.

5 FTC Asked to Enforce Country-of-Origin-Labeling

SSA helps Congress understand how deceptive marketing of imported shrimp swindles consumers and reduces the price paid to U.S. shrimp fishermen. At SSA's request, Senator Hyde-Smith (R-MS) expressed concern to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) that it is not committing meaningful time or resources to address the problem, despite express Congressional direction to address the issue.

In 2020, SSA and many other industry members asked the FTC to establish rules prohibiting restaurants from falsely marketing imported shrimp as domestic wild-caught shrimp. Following up on these requests, Congress directed the FTC to use 2023 funding to close any country-of-origin labeling gaps and prevent deceptive marketing practices for imported shrimp. SSA thanks Senator Hyde-Smith for insisting that the FTC demonstrate progress in addressing these concerns.

Read SSA's Final
Legal Brief



SHRIMPALLIANCE.COM



Read the Shrimp
AP summary brief