



LOUISIANA SHRIMP ASSOCIATION
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**U.S. Department of Commerce,
International Trade Administration (ITA)**

**U.S. Department of Commerce, National
Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**

Office of the United States Trade Representative

**REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE HELP FOR OUR AMERICAN SHRIMP INDUSTRY
WITH REGARD TO THE MASSIVE INFLUX OF SHRIMP IMPORTS FROM
FOREIGN COUNTRIES WHICH ARE DOMINATING THE AMERICAN MARKET**

I. Introduction:

A) Interested Party: The Louisiana Shrimp Association (LSA) is a Non-Profit Trade Organization representing Wild Caught Shrimp Harvesting Vessel Owners and related employees or businesses, primarily in the Louisiana State Territorial Waters and the Gulf of Mexico. Several members of LSA serve on the Louisiana Governor's Shrimp Task Force related to Shrimp Harvesting. Many of our members have served, or have family members who served, in the Military and/or have grown up in families or communities with longstanding ties with Shrimp harvesting in the State of Louisiana and/or the Gulf South. A detailed study concluded that Louisiana Wild Caught Shrimp in the United States is a uniquely nutritious shrimp product.¹

The Louisiana shrimp industry is in crisis, putting our 15,000 jobs and \$1.3 billion industry at risk. During the recent legislative session, hundreds of Louisiana shrimpers, dock owners and processors marched on the State Capitol to call out unwanted competition from imported shrimp. Louisiana plays a significant role in the U.S. shrimp market. But shrimp imports from India, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and Ecuador and other foreign countries are flooding the U.S. market, resulting in distressed prices for our product.

B) National Health Issue: The United States has been overwhelmed with foreign shrimp products, particularly farm raised shrimp from foreign countries where shrimp have been exposed toxic chemicals and antibiotics to such an extent that over 90% of the shrimp

¹ https://digitalcommons.lsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2816&context=gradschool_theses : Study compared Louisiana wild caught Shrimp with various imported shrimp and that mineral content of Louisiana shrimp was high in Magnesium, Phosphorus & Potassium and low in Sodium.

consumed in the United States is potentially dangerous and unhealthy.² According to the results of random checks of frozen shrimp products throughout the United States by consumer advocacy groups, nonprofit Consumer Reports said that 60% of the samples tested positive for some type of Salmonella, Vibrio, Listeria, E. coli; 2% were positive for methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) - methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus. MRSA is bacteria can withstand a certain number of antibiotics. US Governmental efforts to inspect foreign shrimp are grossly inadequate and ineffective due to the very limited US inspection programs.³ **In 2022 1.852 billion pounds of shrimp were imported into the U.S. It is estimated that Americans consume between 1.5-1.6 billion pounds of shrimp per year. The dangerous and unhealthy imported shrimp product alone is substantially exceeding consumption in the US, therefore under cutting the pricing of our American healthy shrimp product, unfairly limiting our growth and our ability to expand the US shrimp industry. These imports are entering our country at even greater quantities today.**

C) Unfair Trade Practices: Even though there are anti-dumping tariffs on foreign countries found to be dumping shrimp into the U.S., each year shrimp imports entering the U.S. have been increasing. This tariff program has been severely undermined as some US trade associations have been allowed to come to settlements with companies in countries that have been found to be dumping their product in the US; then file a changed circumstances review with the U.S. Department of Commerce, resulting in settlements for those trade associations.⁴ These settlements are allowing foreign shrimp importers to evade anti-dumping duty orders and tariffs. These actions are undercutting value of American Wild Caught shrimp, resulting in even more dumping of excess, imported shrimp into the U.S. American Shrimp Industry, harvesters or stake holders are not benefiting from these actions, more and more shrimp imports are continuing to enter the U.S. Undermining the tariffs as set forth above allows dangerous shrimp imports continue to dominate and undercut the US market which is a concern for us and clearly a major American industry issue. These issues are crippling our growth and causing the collapse of our Louisiana shrimp industry as well as the American shrimp industry.

II. LSA Proposed Regulatory Action:

A) Our American shrimp industry is in dire need of immediate help. We have vessels that cannot afford to make a living in America right now; we have seafood docks and ice houses shutting down due to the influx of shrimp imports and unfair trade. We

² Determination of sulfite and antimicrobial residue in imported shrimp to the USA, Aquaculture Reports Volume 18, November 2020, 100529; <https://www.citizen.org/news/too-little-is-known-about-the-health-consequences-of-eating-farm-raised-shrimp/>; <https://oceana.org/blog/5-facts-will-make-you-think-twice-about-eating-imported-farm-raised-shrimp/>

³ <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2011/love-seafood/>; <https://www.wcjb.com/content/news/Untested-water-999-percent-of-foreign-fish-goes-without-testing-for-unsafe-drugs.html>; <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7870836/https836/>

⁴ <https://www.perishablenews.com/seafood/american-shrimp-processors-condemn-proposed-settlement-on-antidumping-order/>; <https://www.perishablenews.com/seafood/american-shrimp-processors-condemn-proposed-settlement-on-antidumping-order/>; <http://archive.indianexpress.com/news/3-shrimp-traders-chosen-for-doc-duty-review/170930/>

- need a cap or quota put on shrimp imports entering the USA as soon as possible. We beg that your agency as well as other US Federal agencies look into this critical issue. We need solutions immediately. Unfair trade is having a devastating effect on our coastal communities and American families.
- B) The US military is seeking to improve military diets with healthy, low fat protein food products and healthy US Wild Caught Shrimp is the perfect solution.⁵ US military should only actively purchase US Wild Caught Shrimp at fair prices considering the nutritious benefits previously cited.
 - C) Other US governmental agencies providing food benefits should likewise provide US healthy US Wild Caught Shrimp products, considering the healthy benefits of US Wild Caught Shrimp Products.
 - D) **Foreign countries should no longer be allowed to simply dump its unhealthy farm raised or harvested shrimp on the US market, which is the current standard practice for foreign shrimp importers. Foreign farm raised shrimp must document all chemicals used in production, storage, or handling of shrimp products and allow and pay for independent inspection thereof, including water quality and sampling before exporting to US. All imported shrimp products that fail inspection must be destroyed and importer placed heightens inspection and consider adopting and improving upon many of the European Community safety rules and regulations of imported seafood products.**⁶
 - E) **US Government should stop foreign countries from undercutting our American shrimp market by limiting import quantities of shrimp entering our country and stop unfair trade procedures. Our American shrimp product is sustainable and is healthy and would benefit our country in war time or in the event as a national security disaster. If our industry collapses the American shrimpers would not be able to provide for our country.**

CONCLUSION

The current US regulatory process for importation of foreign shrimp products in the United States is a disaster. Louisiana is currently the largest supplier of good, healthy, lean shrimp in this country but if toxic shrimp imports continue to dominate and undercut the US market, the Louisiana and US healthy wild caught shrimp industry will completely collapse. How are we going to get healthy, safe, and leaner protein to our troops and US citizens if we let massive contaminated foreign shrimp imports drive US harvesters out of business? American small businesses such as the US wild caught shrimp industry should be able to keep our country moving forward now and at war times. We cannot feed our nation, or troops, if our food producers are out of business. Failure to address this issue at home and abroad will have major consequences and result in the loss of our industry and our coastal communities. We are begging for immediate help from our federal government and federal agencies. Please protect our American industries from unfair trade practices!
We're the United States of America, we deserve better.

⁵ <https://www.military.com/military-fitness/nutrition/foods-for-fitness>

⁶ https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2018-06/ia_trade_import-cond-fish_en.pdf

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On Behalf of the Louisiana Shrimp Association

Louisiana Shrimp Association

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Ronnie Anderson	Vice President, Terrebonne Parish
George Barisich	2 nd Vice President, St. Bernard Parish
Thomas Olander	Chairman, St. Mary Parish
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