



LOUISIANA SHRIMP ASSOCIATION

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**“National Seafood Strategy”
WRITTEN COMMENT
NOAA Fisheries Draft National Seafood Strategy**

The Louisiana Shrimp Association (LSA) is a nonprofit organization formed by commercial shrimpers throughout the State of Louisiana. Membership consists of commercial shrimp fisherman, wholesale and retail seafood dealers, statewide merchants, and individuals concerned about issues related to domestic seafood and shrimp production as well as the preservation of the culture and heritage of the traditional Louisiana shrimper.

Dr. Rubino,

We thank you for taking the time to read our comments and consider them for NOAA’s National Seafood Strategy.

Louisiana Shrimp Association (LSA) was formed in 2002 when the European Union started banning contaminated shrimp from global aquaculture farms. These shiploads of imported shrimp, unfit for human consumption in Europe, were then shipped to the United States and sold at undervalued prices and ruined our domestic market.

Now, (21 years later), these contaminated shrimp, (antibiotics, pesticides, salmonella, MRSA, etc.) are being allowed into our country. We now (21 years later) have a worldwide antibiotic resistance problem. According to CDC reports, 35/50 thousand deaths in the United States alone, 1.27 million deaths worldwide and is associated with 5 million deaths worldwide.

** see footnote links to articles connecting this to shrimp aquaculture.*

As we see, you are one of the people at the top to improve domestic aquaculture. If we cannot compete against the influx of contaminated, undervalued seafood coming into our country, there is no way for a domestic aquaculture industry to survive.

**footnote links:*

<https://sentientmedia.org/farmed-shrimp-india/>

<https://www.google.com/search?q=farm+raised+shrimp+antibiotic+resistance&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&hl=en-us&client=safari#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:56565cae,vid:OJVrCnjL4a8>

Recommendations to the National Seafood Strategy:

1. Increase testing and destroying all contaminated products being imported and stored in cold storage facilities in our country. Yes, this includes the ones already in our stores also through board of health testing or whatever means necessary.
2. The American domestic seafood Industry paid for, fought for, and did the work for the tariffs on these dumped shrimp. Please ask our government to return it to the industry by way of fuel subsidies, grants for improvements etc. but mainly to the harvesters because they are the ones that took the brunt of the price drop. We feel that it belongs to the industry and not our government.
3. We would like our Federal Government to hold foreign imports to the same standards as American Aquaculture (American aquaculture will never be able to compete against forced labor, cheap labor and the use of antibiotics to increase production of shrimp). We believe this to be important for food independence and public health during war time.

Thank you for your time and remember we are supposed to have standards above any country in the world but yet (21 years later) the European Union standards of imported seafood are better than ours in the United States. Raising our standards would be a more level playing field for both industries (wild caught and aquaculture) to stand a chance to thrive while saving lives.

Fair trade is not fair unless other countries are held to the same standards.

Thank you for your time. We forward to working with your agency on future industry issues.

Sincerely,

Acy J. Cooper

Acy J. Cooper
President LSA
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