



LOUISIANA SHRIMP ASSOCIATION

Acy J. Cooper, Jr. President
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Comments to Assist in Reviewing and Identifying Unfair Trade Practices and Initiating All Necessary Actions to Investigate Harm From Non-Reciprocal Trade Arrangements American Shrimp Industry, March 9, 2025

Imported shrimp from foreign countries has injured the domestic shrimp industry in the United States. This has caused a significant loss of revenue for small family-owned fishing businesses and has caused unfair competition for domestic shrimp producers throughout the United States.

The demand for shrimp has increased in recent years, and now about one-quarter of the seafood eaten in the USA shrimp. This demand has been met by cheaper imports of farmed shrimp that push the market price for U.S. wild-caught shrimp continuously to new lows. Costs of production for U.S. shrimp fleets—including fuel, labor, and vessel costs continue to rise. This has created a difficult economic situation for the U.S. shrimp harvesters and the industry and local economies for at least the last two decades (and longer) and continues today.

In 2023, the price of shrimp fell further. Preliminary data from the Gulf of America (formerly Gulf of Mexico) show that the industry sold \$329 million of wild-caught shrimp in 2022 and that revenue dropped to \$204 million in 2023—a 38 percent drop. In contrast, annual landings stayed nearly constant between 2022 and 2023—only dropping 4 percent from 111 million pounds to 107 million pounds. These decreases in production are due to our lack of efforts because we not able to compete with foreign markets. These foreign countries are controlling our market and our prices. We cannot survive this hardship.

Our American shrimp industry is in jeopardy and the industry's future existence is not going in a positive direction. Most industry members indicate that the low prices of shrimp make it too expensive to justify the costs of a trip; these communities are suffering as a result.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration say shrimp dumping has led to around 90% of shrimp consumed in the United States being imported. The U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. International Trade Commission determined that India, Ecuador, Indonesia, and Vietnam are hurting the U.S. industry when it comes to importing frozen warm water shrimp. According to a press release from USITC in 2024, the U.S. industry is “materially injured” because shrimp from the big suppliers are sold in the United States at less than fair value, and imports are subsidized by the governments of Ecuador, India, and Vietnam.

While imposing tariffs may be the outcome of the recent anti-dumping investigation, it has not helped our industry in the past in investigations and reviews. We need President Trump and his administration to investigate what is happening to our American shrimp industry from foreign counties and possibly put a limit/quota on the amount of shrimp imports that are allowed into our country.

Our American wild caught shrimp should be a number one priority within our government. We ask for help so that our industry can survive. We are in dire need and immediate need of help from our President.

Sincerely,

Acy J Cooper Jr

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Louisiana Shrimp Association is a nonprofit organization formed by commercial shrimpers throughout the state of Louisiana. Membership consists of commercial shrimp fisherman, wholesale and retail seafood dealers, state wide merchants, and individuals that are concerned about issues related to domestic seafood and shrimp production, and to preserve the culture and heritage of the traditional Louisiana shrimper.