



**Louisiana Shrimp Association
109 East 17th Place
Larose, La. 70373**

April 22, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing commercial fishermen, seafood producers, and coastal communities across the United States, we respectfully request your administration's support in working with Congress to provide federal fuel subsidies and targeted relief for our industry.

Commercial fishing vessels are entirely dependent on fuel to operate. Without it, boats cannot leave the dock, and American seafood cannot reach the market. Today, rising fuel costs—combined with increasing expenses for essential gear and supplies—are placing an unsustainable burden on fishermen across the country.

Our industry is also facing rising costs on tariff-impacted goods such as shackles, netting, and metal rope, yet domestic shrimp prices have not increased to offset these expenses. As a result, many fishermen are being squeezed from all sides and are operating at a loss.

At the same time, American fishermen are competing against imported seafood from countries where production and operational costs are often supported by government subsidies. This creates a significant disadvantage for U.S. harvesters and threatens the long-term viability of our domestic seafood supply.

We recognize that your administration, working with Congress, has access to proven mechanisms that can deliver meaningful relief. Programs administered through NOAA Fisheries—including fisheries assistance and disaster relief—have successfully provided direct support to fishermen in times of economic hardship. These existing frameworks could be utilized or expanded to address the current fuel crisis.

We respectfully ask for your leadership in:

- Supporting efforts in Congress to establish fuel subsidies or rebate programs for commercial fishermen
- Directing federal agencies to explore emergency relief options using existing authorities
- Including fuel relief for the commercial fishing industry in future budget and policy priorities

The U.S. commercial fishing industry is vital to our nation's food security, economy, and cultural heritage. Without timely action, many fishermen will be forced out of the industry, increasing reliance on foreign imports and weakening America's domestic seafood supply chain.

We stand ready to work with your administration and Congress to advance practical solutions that will keep American fishermen on the water and sustain our coastal communities.

Please find attached a coalition letter submitted to Members of Congress, requesting federal fuel relief for the U.S. commercial fishing industry. We respectfully ask for your administration's support in advancing this effort

Thank you for your time, consideration, and leadership.

Respectfully,



Acy J. Cooper, Jr
President
Louisiana Shrimp Association

On behalf of the following organizations:

*US Shrimpers Coalition:
Texas Shrimp Association
Seafood Work and Watermen's Association
South Carolina Shrimpers Association
North Carolina Fisheries Association
Alabama Commercial Fishermen Association
Seafood Work and Watermen's Association
Louisiana Shrimp Association*