

# How can little shrimps cause big problems?

## By being born on the farm

Remember Forrest Gump? As the story goes he was wildly successful after inheriting a shrimp trawler from his army buddy, Bubba. When the film was made in 1994, catching open ocean shrimp was still highly profitable. Now just ten years later, even Forrest Gump would recognize that raising shrimp on farms is far cheaper and more efficient than trawling open waters with nets that have federally-mandated holes that let turtles escape. "Aquaculture" is a low cost, state-of-the-art method of producing shrimp without these expenses and environmental risks. U.S. shrimpers have failed to adopt this new technology or market their catch effectively as premium-priced, "wild caught" shrimp. As a result, their U.S. market share has fallen to just 10% even as shrimp consumption has climbed to 1 billion pounds annually, making it the most popular seafood in America.

Rather than recognize economic reality, U.S. shrimp producers are blaming less expensive, farm-raised imports and environmental regulations. The Southern Shrimp Alliance (SSA) has filed an anti-dumping suit at the U.S Commerce Department and the International Trade Commission (ITC) against several Asian and South American nations that raise much of their shrimp on aquaculture farms. If they win their case, it could mean duties of 100% or more, and Americans can forget about having plentiful access to their favorite seafood at affordable prices. Domestic shrimpers simply can't catch enough live, wild shrimp off US waters to supply more than 10 percent of the national demand. Imported farmed shrimp can supply that demand -- to the great benefit of American consumers in parts of the country where shrimp used to be a rare and expensive delicacy. If tariffs are imposed, then shrimp will once again be a food only for the wealthy.

American shrimpers say they have a right to their "way of life," even if their business practices are obsolete. But imposing punitive anti-dumping duties that strangle supply will not resolve their problems and is simply *not in the interest of American consumers*. **Antidumping duties will protect the inefficient practices and poor marketing efforts of U.S. shrimpers at the expense of consumers and taxpayers. This is unacceptable.** For this reason:

Consumers for World Trade  
urges Congress to support free trade principles and tell ITC  
Commissioners to reject new duties on shrimp imports.



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