



POSITION PAPER: WHY SUPPORT ASDA?

Over the past few years, seafood importers and distributors have faced a number of challenges as segments of the domestic industry have attempted to limit imports, impose tariffs, or legislate quotas that have cost or will cost consumers—and our industry—millions of dollars. Some of these initiatives include:

- A failed attempt to impose tariffs on blue crab.
- The imposition of tariffs on fresh salmon from Chile.
- The imposition of triple digit duties on crawfish.
- The expensive country-of-origin labeling that the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates will cost industry and consumers more than two billion dollars annually.
- The requirement to label Vietnamese catfish as “basa.”
- Recent threats of antidumping on shrimp products from 12 nations.
- Legislative attempts to impose non-duty barriers to trade such as “The Shrimp Importation Financing Fairness Act” and “The Seafood Safety Improvement Act.”
- The preliminary imposition of double-digit duties on Vietnamese catfish by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The seafood business has, indeed, become expensive and difficult.

The time has come for seafood producers, importers, distributors, wholesalers, and transportation companies to make our voices heard. It is time for us to tell our elected and appointed officials that ***U.S. businesses and consumers can no longer afford the costs of protectionist laws that presume to take care of one sector of the domestic industry on the one hand, while imposing hardship on another domestic sector—that is, those of us who import, process, distribute, market, and sell seafood from all over the globe.***

The American Seafood Distributors Association (ASDA) is mobilizing industry as never before to ensure that free and fair trade can continue, and that we who make our living sourcing and selling products from all over the world – including products from domestic fisheries – can continue to meet the needs of U.S. consumers.

But ASDA needs your support and needs it today.

ASDA is currently involved in undertaking a number of initiatives to address the challenges that we face as an industry, including reaching out to the domestic industry with proposed alternatives to trade actions. To date, our discussions with the domestic industry include the development of niche marketing alliances between shrimp harvesters and restaurant and retail buyers; generic marketing funding through Saltonstall-Kennedy funding; government purchasing programs; research; and possible government initiatives that would give the domestic industry benefits that are similar to those enjoyed by agricultural commodities. Because many of our members purchase products from both imported and domestic sources,

we believe as an organization that a strong industry needs both domestic products and imports.

Please join the nearly 50 U.S. companies and trade associations who have made a financial contribution to ASDA and have agreed to make their voices heard, and heard loudly and clearly. Make your contribution to ASDA today.

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