

Petition P4-0007, filed on behalf of Florida shrimp producers.

Background:

On November 18, 2003, the Federal Register published notice that the Southeastern Fisheries Association, Tallahassee, Florida, had filed a petition for trade adjustment assistance on behalf of all shrimp producers in the state in Florida.

The petition indicated that the marketing year impacted by imports of farmed shrimp was January - December 2002. The 5-year base period used for the purpose of a price comparison was 1997-2001.

Analysis:

USDA evaluated official prices for shrimp produced in Florida compiled by the Marine Fisheries Information System at the Florida Marine Resource Institute. Species of shrimp landed in Florida included pink, white, brown, rock, royal red, seabob and other. Based on this data, USDA found that in 2002, Florida shrimpers received an average price of \$1.996 per pound. The average price for the 5-year base period was \$2.376 per pound. The 2002 price was 84.0 percent of the 5-year average, indicating a decline of 16.0 percent from the base period.

In its petition, the Southeastern Fisheries Association provided prices for pink, white, and brown shrimp. For these three species, prices in 2002 did decline by more than 20 percent over the 5-year base period. However, USDA evaluated the prices for all species landed in Florida because the petitioner explicitly filed on behalf of all shrimpers and, furthermore, provided a description of the commodity by including all sizes of shrimp listed in the *Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States* from the largest to the smallest size. Had the Administrator certified this petition, all shrimpers in Florida would have been eligible for technical assistance and cash payments irrespective of the size or species of shrimp. This approach was consistent with petitions filed by shrimpers in Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina.

Reason for denial of petition:

To qualify for TAA, the producer price of a commodity must decline by more than 20 percent from the average for the base period. Consequently, the petition was denied, and notice was published in the Federal Register on January 12, 2004.