

April 5, 2010

Mr. Ross Andersen
New York Bureau of Weights and Measures
10B Airline Drive
Albany, NY 12235

Dear Mr. Andersen:

I am writing on behalf of the Southern Shrimp Alliance (SSA), a non-profit association of fishermen and processors of shrimp in eight states (from Texas to North Carolina), to commend you on your efforts to address fraudulent practices regarding the sale of seafood products to consumers. On behalf of the domestic industry, I wanted to let you know that we are grateful for your hard work and believe that your investigation and the actions that you take to curb these practices will be of seminal importance in eliminating fraud from the seafood marketplace in the United States.

Although your investigation and findings related to the practice of "short-weighting," or dishonestly charging consumers for water included in the packaging as ice, "short-weighting" is but one of the various forms of economically motivated adulteration that defraud seafood consumers. In addition to "short-weighting," species of products are frequently mislabeled on seafood packaging and imported seafood, including imported farm-raised shrimp, is often fraudulently sold to consumers as wild-caught domestic shrimp. In each instance, consumers are misled regarding the seafood that they purchase: with "short-weighting," consumers are sold water instead of seafood; with species substitution, consumers are sold low-value seafood instead of the higher-value product on the label; and with mislabeled country of origin, consumers are tricked into buying what they believe is domestically produced, wholesome seafood.

The fraud that characterizes much of the seafood industry has harmful impacts well beyond economic rip-offs. With mislabeled shrimp, for example, there are serious health risks posed to consumers with the addition of pesticides and antibiotics in farm-raised shrimp. Rampant mislabeling precludes consumers from ensuring that they avoid such risks by purchasing wild-caught seafood and, as such, inhibits seafood consumption overall.

There are thousands of honest, hard-working family-owned businesses that have been adversely affected by the greedy actions of those few who commit fraud in the sale of seafood in this country. Insofar as your efforts have cracked down on one of the more widespread fraudulent economically motivated adulteration practices in the industry, they represent an important first step in support of honest businesses.

In this vein, we are particularly heartened by the results of the State of Alaska's investigation. Alaska's experience appears to show that effective testing programs, coupled with a commitment by

participants in the seafood industry to adhere to the law, can largely eliminate fraudulent practices in the seafood marketplace.

Thank you again for your hard work. We look forward to working with you in the future to further enhance your efforts to protect consumers.

Sincerely,

John Williams
Executive Director, Southern Shrimp Alliance

April 5, 2010

Mr. Stephen Benjamin
North Carolina Department of Agriculture
1050 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1050

Dear Mr. Benjamin:

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Executive Director, Southern Shrimp Alliance

April 5, 2010

Mr. Nick Brechun
Technical Services Section
Division of Inspection and Consumer Services
Colorado Department of Agriculture
2331 West 31st Avenue
Denver, CO 80211

Dear Mr. Brechun:

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John Williams
Executive Director, Southern Shrimp Alliance

April 5, 2010

Mr. Dan Breeden
Alaska Division of Measurement Standards / CVE
11900 Industry Way
Bldg. M, Suite 2
Anchorage, AK 99515

Dear Mr. Breeden:

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John Williams
Executive Director, Southern Shrimp Alliance

April 5, 2010

Ms. Jonelle Brent
Illinois Department of Agriculture
PO Box 19281
Springfield, IL 62794-9281

Dear Ms. Brent:

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John Williams
Executive Director, Southern Shrimp Alliance

April 5, 2010

Mr. Mark Buccelli
State of Minnesota Department of Commerce
Weights and Measures Division
14305 South Cross Drive, Suite 150
Burnsville, MN 55306

Dear Mr. Buccelli:

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Sincerely,

John Williams
Executive Director, Southern Shrimp Alliance

April 5, 2010

Ms. Judy Cardin
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection
PO Box 8911
2811 Agriculture Drive
Madison, WI 53708-8911

Dear Ms. Cardin:

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Sincerely,

John Williams
Executive Director, Southern Shrimp Alliance

April 5, 2010

Ms. Fran Elson-Houston
Ohio Department of Agriculture
8995 East Main Street, Building 5
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-3399

Dear Ms. Elson-Houston:

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Sincerely,

John Williams
Executive Director, Southern Shrimp Alliance

April 5, 2010

Mr. Maxwell Gray
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
3125 Conner Blvd., Lab 2
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650

Dear Mr. Gray:

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Mr. Frank Greene
Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

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Mr. Ronald Hayes
Missouri Department of Agriculture
PO Box 630
Jefferson City, MO 65102

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Ms. Jill Paxton
Iowa Weights and Measures Bureau
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Wallace State Office Building
502 E 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Ms. Paxton:

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Mr. Hal Prince
Maine Department of Agriculture
28 State House Station Deering Bldg.
AMHI Complex
Augusta, ME 04333-0028

Dear Mr. Prince:

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Mr. Kirk Robinson
Washington Department of Agriculture
PO Box 42560
Olympia, WA 98504-2560

Dear Mr. Robinson:

I am writing on behalf of the Southern Shrimp Alliance (SSA), a non-profit association of fishermen and processors of shrimp in eight states (from Texas to North Carolina), to commend you on your efforts to address fraudulent practices regarding the sale of seafood products to consumers. On behalf of the domestic industry, I wanted to let you know that we are grateful for your hard work and believe that your investigation and the actions that you take to curb these practices will be of seminal importance in eliminating fraud from the seafood marketplace in the United States.

Although your investigation and findings related to the practice of "short-weighting," or dishonestly charging consumers for water included in the packaging as ice, "short-weighting" is but one of the various forms of economically motivated adulteration that defraud seafood consumers. In addition to "short-weighting," species of products are frequently mislabeled on seafood packaging and imported seafood, including imported farm-raised shrimp, is often fraudulently sold to consumers as wild-caught domestic shrimp. In each instance, consumers are misled regarding the seafood that they purchase: with "short-weighting," consumers are sold water instead of seafood; with species substitution, consumers are sold low-value seafood instead of the higher-value product on the label; and with mislabeled country of origin, consumers are tricked into buying what they believe is domestically produced, wholesome seafood.

The fraud that characterizes much of the seafood industry has harmful impacts well beyond economic rip-offs. With mislabeled shrimp, for example, there are serious health risks posed to consumers with the addition of pesticides and antibiotics in farm-raised shrimp. Rampant mislabeling precludes consumers from ensuring that they avoid such risks by purchasing wild-caught seafood and, as such, inhibits seafood consumption overall.

There are thousands of honest, hard-working family-owned businesses that have been adversely affected by the greedy actions of those few who commit fraud in the sale of seafood in this country. Insofar as your efforts have cracked down on one of the more widespread fraudulent economically motivated adulteration practices in the industry, they represent an important first step in support of honest businesses.

In this vein, we are particularly heartened by the results of the State of Alaska's investigation. Alaska's experience appears to show that effective testing programs, coupled with a commitment by

participants in the seafood industry to adhere to the law, can largely eliminate fraudulent practices in the seafood marketplace.

Thank you again for your hard work. We look forward to working with you in the future to further enhance your efforts to protect consumers.

Sincerely,

John Williams
Executive Director, Southern Shrimp Alliance

April 5, 2010

Mr. Tim Tyson
Kansas Department of Agriculture Weights and Measures Division
PO Box 19282
Forbes Field Building 282
Topeka, KS 66619-0282

Dear Mr. Tyson:

I am writing on behalf of the Southern Shrimp Alliance (SSA), a non-profit association of fishermen and processors of shrimp in eight states (from Texas to North Carolina), to commend you on your efforts to address fraudulent practices regarding the sale of seafood products to consumers. On behalf of the domestic industry, I wanted to let you know that we are grateful for your hard work and believe that your investigation and the actions that you take to curb these practices will be of seminal importance in eliminating fraud from the seafood marketplace in the United States.

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Sincerely,

John Williams
Executive Director, Southern Shrimp Alliance

April 5, 2010

Craig A. VanBuren
Michigan Department of Agriculture
940 Venture Lane
Williamston, MI 48895-2451

Dear Mr. VanBuren:

I am writing on behalf of the Southern Shrimp Alliance (SSA), a non-profit association of fishermen and processors of shrimp in eight states (from Texas to North Carolina), to commend you on your efforts to address fraudulent practices regarding the sale of seafood products to consumers. On behalf of the domestic industry, I wanted to let you know that we are grateful for your hard work and believe that your investigation and the actions that you take to curb these practices will be of seminal importance in eliminating fraud from the seafood marketplace in the United States.

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Sincerely,

John Williams
Executive Director, Southern Shrimp Alliance

April 5, 2010

Mr. Edmund Williams
California Division of Measurement Standards
6790 Florin Perkins Road, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95828

Dear Mr. Williams:

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