

# Shrimp Producers Marketing Cooperative

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Mr. Douglas Bell  
Chair, Trade Policy Staff Committee  
Office of The U.S. Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 2058  
Trade Policy Docket # USTR-2013-0019

Dear Mr. Bell:

My Name is Nick Edwards. I am the Secretary of the Shrimp Producers Marketing Cooperative. We are the largest shrimp association on the West Coast. We represent Oregon, Washington and California fishing vessels. I am submitting comments to be on the Federal Register, (Request for Comments Concerning Proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Agreement.) These comments regard the trade barrier of "Pandalus Jordani" shrimp. One of the uniquely high tariffs left in exporting to the EU.

Five separate entities weighed in to the USTR regarding "Jordani" tariff differentials in the EU.

- \*Oregon Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden
- \*Oregon Department of Agriculture director Katy Coba
- \*Oregon Trawl Commission Director Brad Pettinger
- \*West Coast Seafood Processers Association Director Rod Moore
- \*Shrimp Producers Marketing Cooperative President Ted Gibson

Docket number: 2012-001 these entities above provided comment placed in the federal register. This was information was provided to the EU-US high level working group. We are trying this format again in hopes of a positive resolution to this tariff issue. Bilateral trade along with tariff relief is essential for expanding the market for "Jordani" shrimp in the EU.

The "Jordani" shrimp fishery is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest valued fishery on the West Coast. "Jordani" shrimp is now ten percent of the world's global supply. The world supply of cold water shrimp is in decline. We have developed a broad market in the EU. The impasse to the EU customer is the tariff differentials. Canada's product "Pandalus Borealis" has a duty free quota of 30,000 MT per year. US product "Pandalus Jordani" has a duty free quota 2,000 MT. In today's EU market this creates a 20% financial burden after the 2,000 MT is met. These EU importers would prefer "Jordani shrimp." The 20% tariff also suppresses the ex-vessel price.

In Oregon alone we landed 22,296 MT for a dollar value of \$24,685,293.00 paid to the vessels. Using a safe economic multiplier times two that's 50 million dollars flowing through the coastal communities of Oregon. Equalizing this tariff on "Jordani shrimp" would result in increased tonnage landed by the fleet and future volume of finished product being sold to the EU. The end result will be a price increase to the fleet.

The high level working group needs to recognize the impacts of CETA, the "Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement." Canada and the European Union are in the final stages of this free trade agreement. Canada will have a tariff free environment for all their seafood products. We will still have only 2,000 MT of duty free quota. This impact will be the "unforeseen consequence" regarding tariff in the EU.

In closing we realize there are many separate trade issues with the EU. The Shrimp Producers Marketing Cooperative needs the USTR to voice our concerns. Our current president intends to double Transatlantic Trade to the EU. We need to emphasize with clarity the need to equalize or eliminate the tariff of "Pandalus Jordani" shrimp.

Sincerely,

Nick Edwards

Secretary of Shrimp Producers Marketing Cooperative