

Deputies approve authorisation to include shrimp in import monitoring program

The US House of Representatives passed authorization to include shrimp in Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) through the FY2018 Omnibus Appropriations Bill.

Dr. David Veal, Executive Director of the American Shrimp Processor Association (ASPA) pointed out the House Bill is expected to pass the US Senate and become law after President Trump signs it.

SIMP requires traceability information on imported seafood from point of capture to point of first sale in the US in order to thwart illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activity.

“Families in US shrimp communities across the Gulf and South Atlantic are elated that our Senators added traceability and real scrutiny of imported shrimp to the Omnibus Appropriations legislation. Even though shrimp is the largest imported seafood product, it was left out of a December 2016 traceability program that included most other species,” noted Veal.

For his part, Eddy Hayes, Gulf Counsel for ASPA, recognised this success is a result of a relentless, two-year effort led by many senators who took the necessary step to help ensure a level playing field for the domestic shrimp industry.

“This is a victory for seafood transparency and the American consumer,” Hayes noted.

He also stressed that the IUU traceability program will help eliminate unscrupulous foreign producers and importers who transship product from one country through another, adding that consumers will now hopefully realize a measure of seafood safety similar to that of their counterparts in the EU and Japan.

Lien article : <http://fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&id=96551&ndb=1>