

For: Alabama State and County Offices

Shrimp Approved for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) in Alabama

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

Under the TAA Program, both technical assistance and cash benefits are provided to eligible agricultural commodity producers if an increase in imports has contributed importantly to a decline in price, resulting in a drop in net farming or fishing income.

FAS has determined, based on a petition filed on behalf of shrimp producers in the State of Alabama, that increased imports of shrimp contributed importantly to a decline in prices from January 2002 through December 2002 when compared with the previous 5-year average. Therefore, the shrimp producers represented by the approved petition are eligible to receive TAA benefits.

B Purpose

This notice provides Alabama State and County Offices with:

- information about FAS certification of the petition filed by shrimp producers
- instructions to begin sign-up for shrimpers and shrimp producers represented by the FAS-certified petition.

Disposal Date	Distribution
October 1, 2004	Alabama State Office; State Office relay to County Offices

Notice SP-15

2 Shrimpers and Shrimp Producers Eligible for TAA

A Approved Petitions

Notice SP-5, paragraph 4, provided the petition review and certification process for groups or individuals acting as authorized representatives of an association of agricultural commodity producers electing to petition FAS for TAA benefits.

A petition was filed on behalf of shrimp producers in Alabama by Organized Seafood Association of Alabama, Bayou La Batre, Alabama. FAS published the notice in the Federal Register (FR) on December 4 accepting that petition for review. On December 29, 2003, FAS announced certification of that petition, and based on that certification, producers of shrimp in Alabama are now eligible to apply for TAA benefits.

B Notification of Approved Petitions

The approved and certified Alabama petition is implemented based on a Departmental press release issued on January 12, 2004. The 90-day application period begins the day after this certification is announced.

FAS will publish a notice in the FR as soon as practical to summarize the petition and the reasons for approving it for TAA eligibility.

C Sign-Up Period

Sign-up for TAA benefits by shrimpers and shrimp producers covered by the approved Alabama petition begins January 13, 2004, and will continue for 90 calendar days, ending on April 12, 2004.

TAA applicants must submit a completed FSA-229 (see Notice SP-5, Exhibit 1) by **COB April 12, 2004**, at the FSA County Office or USDA Service Center nearest their place of residence. This application deadline does **not** affect the application deadlines previously announced for shrimp applications in Georgia, Texas, and South Carolina.

Note: Acceptable production evidence, such as receipts, ledgers, income statements, landing reports, etc., shall be submitted at the time of application, but **no later than April 12, 2004**. Such evidence must verify shrimp production from January 2002 through December 2002. All other documentation required for application approval must be submitted by COB September 30, 2004.

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3 Shrimp Producers Eligible for TAA

A Sign-Up Period

TAA sign-up dates and preliminary rates are listed in the following table for petitions approved as of the date of this notice. The rates may change if TAA funds are pro-rated. This summary table does not change previously announced sign-up dates or rates. It is included to summarize TAA programs to date.

Commodity	Approved State	Preliminary Rate (\$ per pound)	Sign-up Dates (Includes last day)
Salmon	Alaska (approved varieties)	\$0.030	October 22, 2003, to January 20, 2004
	Washington (approved varieties)	\$0.070	October 22, 2003, to January 20, 2004
Wild Blueberries	Maine	\$0.028	October 22, 2003, to January 20, 2004
Catfish	Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Utah	\$0.003	November 18, 2003, to February 17, 2004
Shrimp	Georgia South Carolina Texas	\$0.130* \$0.110 \$0.160	November 10, 2003, to February 9, 2004
	Alabama	\$0.010	January 13, 2004, to April 12, 2004
*Georgia payment rate is a heads-off weight basis. Rates for SC, TX, and AL are for whole-shrimp weight.			

B Eligible Producers

For purposes of this notice, an eligible applicant is a shrimp producer as defined according to 1-PL, subparagraph 110 A, who commercially markets shrimp in Alabama and directly or indirectly, as determined by the Secretary, shares in the risk of catching and marketing shrimp. Regulations further define a qualified fisherman as a person who reports net fishing income to the Internal Revenue Service on Schedules C or C-EZ. Applicants who farm-raise shrimp may report net farm income on Schedule F.

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3 Shrimp Producers Eligible for TAA (Continued)

C Eligible Production

The quantity of shrimp eligible for payment:

- must have been marketed in Alabama from January 2002 to December 2002
- may be either farm raised or caught
- must be verified by sales receipts or other marketing evidence from the processor.

4 Action

A State and County Offices

State and County Offices shall:

- begin accepting FSA-229's and acceptable production evidence for TAA applicants based on sales receipts or other evidence of marketing in Alabama
- verify that applicants marketed the shrimp in Alabama regardless of where the shrimp producer lives
- provide information to shrimp producers about TAA program requirements through:
 - over-the-counter discussion
 - newsletters
 - other methods of communication, as applicable
- on applications, convert shrimp weights reported as a "heads-off" weight to a whole-shrimp weight basis. Use the conversion factor of 1.59 explained in Notice SP-12, Exhibit 1, item 8.

B Contact

The Organized Seafood Association of Alabama, Bayou La Batre, Alabama may be contacted at 251-824-3536. The contact name is Earnest Anderson.