

For: State and County Offices

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Petition for Shrimp Recertified for South Carolina

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

FAS has recertified the TAA petition for shrimp marketed in South Carolina. Therefore, shrimp producers represented by the recertified petition are eligible to receive TAA benefits.

B Purpose

This notice provides:

- information about FAS recertification of the petitions filed by shrimp producers for South Carolina
- instructions on providing benefits to shrimp producers represented by the FAS recertified petition.

Disposal Date	Distribution
December 1, 2005	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

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2 Provisions of South Carolina Shrimp TAA for FY 2005

A Announcing Approved Petition and Recertification

A petition for TAA benefits was filed and certified on behalf of South Carolina shrimpers and shrimp producers by the South Carolina Shrimper's Association, McClellanville, South Carolina. The initial petition was implemented based on a Department press release issued November 10, 2003.

On November 16, 2004, FAS announced recertification of the TAA shrimp petitions for South Carolina. Under this recertification, benefits are available to applicants who marketed their shrimp in South Carolina during calendar year 2003. FAS published a notice in the Federal Register summarizing the petition and the reasons for recertification on November 18, 2004.

B Application Period and Documentation Requirements

Shrimp producers covered by the recertified South Carolina petition may apply for benefits by submitting a completed FSA-229 starting November 29, 2004, through February 28, 2005, at the closest FSA County Office or USDA Service Center. **Applications received late cannot be approved for cash benefits.**

Acceptable production evidence must be submitted at the time of application, but no later than February 28, 2005. This evidence must verify shrimp marketings in South Carolina from January 2003 through December 2003.

All other required application documentation, including documentation that the applicant's net income from fishing was lower in FY 2003 than in FY 2001, and documentation from CSREES, must be submitted by COB September 30, 2005.

C 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 marketed shrimp in South Carolina in FY 2003 and directly or indirectly, as determined by the Secretary, shared in the risk of catching and marketing such shrimp.

D Eligible Production

The quantity of shrimp eligible for payment must:

- have been marketed in South Carolina from January 2003 to December 2003
- be verified by sales receipts or other marketing evidence from the buyer
- be expressed in the correct weight basis (see 1-SP, Exhibit 7).

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2 Provisions of South Carolina Shrimp TAA for FY 2005 (Continued)

E Preliminary Payment Rate

The preliminary payment rate for South Carolina shrimp is \$0.25 cents per pound, head-on weight basis. This rate is based on the assumption that all TAA preliminary payment rates will not be reduced. The reduction of all FY 2005 preliminary rates will occur if needed to prevent total TAA outlays for FY 2005 from exceeding the statutory outlay limit of \$90 million.

F Years for Net Income Comparison

Applicants must provide documentation that their net income from fishing was less in FY 2003 than it was in FY 2001. These comparison years apply to all applicants regardless of whether they received a cash TAA payment for their FY 2002 marketings.

Note: 1-SP is being amended to provide a new definition of the “pre-adjustment year” to be used for the net-income calculation.

Pre-adjustment year is defined as the tax year associated with the last marketing year of the 5-year base period used for calculating the petition’s historical average price.

G CSREES Training Period

CSREES will provide training during a 180-day period from November 29, 2004, to May 31, 2005. Applicants who did not receive technical assistance under the FY 2004 TAA program must receive technical assistance before May 31, 2005, to be eligible for cash payments.

All TAA applicants are required to contact CSREES. Applicants who received technical training last year will not be required to attend training as a requirement for cash payments. However, these applicants must still provide their County Office documentation from CSREES. This documentation, whether a letter to the applicant from CSREES or the CSREES Technical Assistance Certification Form, must be submitted by COB September 30, 2005.

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3 Action

A State and County Office Action

State and County Offices shall:

- inform potential applicants about program enrollment and eligibility requirements through:
 - over-the-counter discussion
 - newsletters
 - other methods of communication, as applicable
- accept FSA-229's.

Note: Use revised FSA-229 dated "10-27-04". The application and acceptable production evidence must both be received within the 90-calendar-day application period.

Software for FAS to recertify petitions, and for County Offices to enter applications for recertified and new petitions, is being developed. Instructions for using the software will be provided in a forthcoming SP notice.