

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 105

BY REPRESENTATIVE GAROFALO AND SENATORS ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, BARROW, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CLOUD, CONNICK, CORTEZ, FESI, JACKSON, LAMBERT, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, POPE, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, TARVER, AND WOMACK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and the United States Food and Drug Administration to expand testing of imported shrimp products and increase public awareness of health risks associated with imported shrimp.

WHEREAS, the harvesting of shrimp has been part of the cultural heritage of Louisiana since the nineteenth century; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent report by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, the Louisiana seafood industry produces an economic impact of over \$2.4 billion annually for the state; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana shrimp fishery is the largest commercial fishery in the state by economic value and the second largest commercial fishery by volume of landings; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's shrimp landings account for more than forty percent of all warmwater shrimp landed in the United States in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana wild-caught shrimp fishery is losing domestic market share to an inferior, pond-raised, imported shrimp, which results in lower dockside prices for Louisiana fishers; and

WHEREAS, approximately ninety-four percent of seafood sold in the United States is imported and shrimp account for the highest percent of all seafood imports; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), imported shrimp products have risen from less than two hundred fifty million pounds in 1980, to nearly two billion pounds in 2022; and

WHEREAS, according to statistics from the United States Census Bureau and the NOAA, the price per pound for imported shrimp, adjusted for inflation, has decreased from nearly ten dollars in 1980, to just over four dollars in 2022, while the Gulf dockside value has declined from nearly five dollars in 1980, to approximately two dollars and fifty cents in 2022; and

WHEREAS, current food safety regulations and inspections are failing to prevent risks to human safety and, according to a report published in Environmental Science and Technology, only two percent of all seafood imported into the United States is tested for contamination, whereas the European Union inspects fifty percent, Japan inspects eighteen percent, and Canada inspects fifteen percent.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and the United States Food and Drug Administration to expand the testing of imported shrimp products for banned drugs, bacteria, and disease and to increase public awareness to the possible health risks associated with imported shrimp.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge the United States Congress to support legislation requiring the labeling of all shrimp sold at restaurants to be labeled with their country of origin and to take such actions as are necessary to hold foreign fisheries to the same standards as domestic fisheries and reduce the volume of shrimp products imported into the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States Congress and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE