

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

SEAFOOD: Memorializes Congress to compel the United States Food and Drug Administration to increase inspection and testing of imported seafood

## 1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to compel  
3 the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to fulfill its duties regarding  
4 inspection and testing of imported seafood.

5 WHEREAS, according to statistics by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
6 Administration (NOAA), United States (U.S.) imports of edible fishery products were 6.9  
7 billion pounds, valued at \$29.7 billion; and

8           WHEREAS, the estimated percentage of consumption from seafood imports in the  
9   U.S. was eighty-six percent in 2022; and

10 WHEREAS, NOAA Fisheries statistics show that the U.S. Department of Agriculture  
11 reported that in 2023 the total value of imported seafood was \$25.5 billion, with imports  
12 from Canada accounting for the largest share valued more than \$3.6 billion in seafood  
13 products (14.1 percent), followed by Chile (13.0 percent), India (10.0 percent), Indonesia  
14 (7.9 percent), and Vietnam (6.4 percent); and

15 WHEREAS, the FDA is responsible for the safety of all fish and fishery products  
16 entering the U.S. and sold in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the FDA's seafood safety program is governed by its Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point regulations, which address food safety management through the analysis and control of biological, chemical, and physical hazards from raw material production and procurement and handling to manufacturing, distribution, and consumption of the finished product; and

1 WHEREAS, the FDA's regulations for imported seafood are supposed to measure  
2 the compliance of imported seafood with inspections of foreign processing facilities,  
3 sampling of seafood offered for import into the U.S., domestic surveillance sampling of  
4 imported products, inspections of seafood importers, foreign country program assessments,  
5 and the use of information from foreign partners and FDA overseas offices; and

6 WHEREAS, approximately ninety four percent of the volume of seafood sold in the  
7 U.S. is imported from other countries; and

8 WHEREAS, the Louisiana State University School of Renewable Natural Resources  
9 published a 2020 paper titled "Determination of Sulfite and Antimicrobial Residue in  
10 Imported Shrimp to the USA", which presented findings from a study of shrimp imported  
11 from India, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Bangladesh, and Ecuador and purchased  
12 from retail stores in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

13 WHEREAS, a screening of these shrimp for sulfites and residues from antimicrobial  
14 drugs found the following: (1) five percent of the shrimp contained malachite green, (2)  
15 seven percent contained oxytetracycline, (3) seventeen percent contained fluoroquinolone,  
16 and (4) seventy percent contained nitrofurantoin, all of which have been banned by the FDA  
17 in domestic aquaculture operations; and

18 WHEREAS, although the FDA requires that food products exposed to sulfites  
19 include a label with a statement about the presence of sulfites, of the forty-three percent of  
20 these locally purchased shrimp found to contain sulfites, not one package complied with this  
21 labeling requirement; and

22 WHEREAS, the drug and sulfite residues included in this screening can be harmful  
23 to human health during both handling and consumption and have been known to cause all  
24 of the following: liver damage and tumors, reproductive abnormalities, cardiac arrhythmia,  
25 renal failure, hemolysis, asthma attacks, and allergic reactions; and

26 WHEREAS, the results of this study confirm that existing screening and enforcement  
27 measures for imported seafood are insufficient; and

28 WHEREAS, whatever the percentage of imports inspected may be, seafood is  
29 currently being imported that contains unsafe substances that put American consumers at  
30 risk; and

1 WHEREAS, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) directs the FDA to inspect  
2 each domestic high-risk food facility at least once every three years and each non-high-risk  
3 food facility at least once every five years; and

4 WHEREAS, according to a January 2025 report by the Government Accountability  
5 Office (GAO), the FDA has not met the mandated targets of the FSMA since 2018; and

6 WHEREAS, from Fiscal Year 2018 through Fiscal Year 2023, the FDA inspected  
7 an average of eight thousand fifty-three domestic food facilities per year versus just nine  
8 hundred seventeen foreign food facilities; and

9 WHEREAS, the GAO found that the FDA applies far more scrutiny to U.S.-based  
10 seafood processors than it does to their foreign competitors; and

11 WHEREAS, in contrast, imports of fishery products into the European Union (EU)  
12 are subject to strict standards including the requirement of an official certification based on  
13 the recognition of the competent authority of the non-EU country by the European  
14 Commission; and

15 WHEREAS, for all fishery products exported into the EU, countries of origin must  
16 be on a positive list of eligible countries; and

17 WHEREAS, imports of fishery products from non-EU countries must enter the EU  
18 via an approved border inspection post under the authority of an official veterinarian in the  
19 EU member state in question and each consignment is subject to a systematic documentary,  
20 identity, and physical check; and

21 WHEREAS, consignments which are noncompliant with EU legislation shall either  
22 be destroyed or, under certain conditions, redispached within sixty days; and

23 WHEREAS, the FDA needs to improve oversight of imported seafood to, at  
24 minimum, match our foreign counterparts while simultaneously ensuring the seafood  
25 consumed in the state is safe.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
27 memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to compel the  
28 FDA to increase inspection and testing of imported seafood.

1           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge  
2   the United States Congress to support the recommendations of the GAO in its January 8,  
3   2025, report (GAO-25-107571).

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

---

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

---

HCR 8 Original	2025 Regular Session	Bayham
----------------	----------------------	--------

Memorializes Congress to compel the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to fulfill its duties regarding inspection and testing of imported seafood.