

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 5, 2025

Bruce Summers, Administrator
USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
Room 3069 South Agriculture Building
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Administrator Summers:

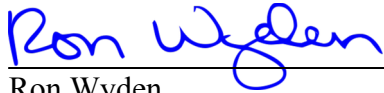
We write to express our support for the whole of the West Coast seafood industry, and to respectfully request that the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) pursue Section 32 purchases of Pacific pink shrimp in 2025 as soon as possible. Commercial fishing, seafood processing, and distribution is an integral part of the numerous small ports and rural communities that dot America's Pacific coast. The industry contributes hundreds of millions of dollars and thousands of jobs to the region's economy, all while providing the nation with domestic, high-quality seafood that is caught, processed, and distributed by hardworking Americans.

As the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) continues its work to develop a national seafood strategy that provides economic opportunity to rural communities, promotes production that better nourishes Americans, and secures a robust domestic food supply, we urge USDA to extend support and relief at the earliest opportunity. The West Coast seafood industry has struggled recently with inflation and barriers to international trade, and the situation has rapidly escalated to an emergency since their previous request was made in February of 2025.

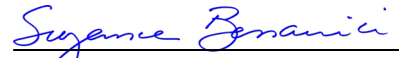
In March 2025, in response to the additional tariffs announced by President Trump, the European Union announced its intention to place a retaliatory tariff of 25% on a range of U.S. exports, including coldwater shrimp. Although this planned retaliation is currently paused, the industry reports that the market impacts of the resulting uncertainty have been devastating. European buyers canceled shipments and suspended major orders weeks before the pause was announced, and cyclical harvest patterns strongly suggest that this season will result in another significant harvest. The loss of this significant market, coupled with the United Kingdom's recent denial of the industry's request for the United Kingdom to suspend its existing 20% tariff on imports of U.S. Pacific pink shrimp, poses a serious threat to the industry as supply increases rapidly with no viable outlet. We urge you to use your Section 32 purchase authority to support these hardworking Americans and businesses at every point along the supply chain, and to mitigate the economic impact from the loss of these foreign markets to our coastal communities.

We greatly appreciate the work that the USDA has done with its previous Section 32 purchases for other West Coast seafood products, which provided significant and much-needed security for the industry and our coastal communities during other periods of uncertainty and market volatility. These previous partnerships were a highly successful last resort that helped mitigate the impacts to producers, while also making sure that Americans across the country benefitted from these highly nutritious, domestically sourced products. We look forward to the continuation of this partnership, and thank you for your full and fair review of the West Coast seafood industry's application.

Sincerely,



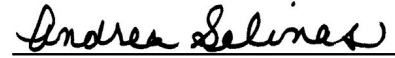
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



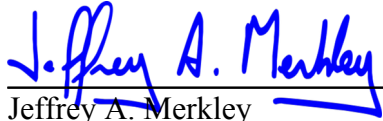
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



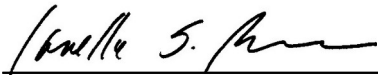
Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress