

# WHY "ZEROING" ADDS UP TO A BIG NEGATIVE FOR U.S. CONSUMERS!

On November 30, the Department of Commerce will begin announcing duties on shrimp imported to the U.S. from six foreign countries as part of its investigation of alleged "dumping."

However, in determining the amount of these taxes, the DOC's method of calculation is not merely out of step with simple grade school math, it is in clear violation of World Trade Organization rules.

**It's called "zeroing" and nothing about it adds up for American consumers of shrimp.**

In its flawed approach to determining import taxes by averaging product-specific dumping margins for foreign suppliers, the Commerce Department converts all negative dumping margins to zero. This discretionary practice is not required by U.S. anti-dumping laws, is patently unfair, and biases the outcome of anti-dumping investigations by always resulting in artificially inflated, unmerited tariffs and taxes.

**The European Union has ceased the practice of zeroing, yet the Department of Commerce persists, to the detriment of shrimp consumers and processors in America.**

No new legislation is required to terminate the practice of zeroing. If the DOC simply calculates averages the way we were all taught in school, we believe that taxes will not be assessed on imports from 12 foreign companies in five of the six countries under investigation. And the winners will be the American families who consume more shrimp than any other seafood.

If the Commerce Department continues to use zeroing in its dumping investigation, another challenge from the WTO is likely. And worse, the countries now exporting shrimp to the United States would have the right to retaliate against U.S. exports.

**Artificially high tariffs on imported shrimp are unfair, will increase the price we all pay for shrimp, and will result in lost U.S. jobs.**

## **YOU CAN HELP!**

**Contact the Department of Commerce today and demand that the practice of zeroing be ended in anti-dumping investigations.**

Contact Commerce Secretary Donald L. Evans at (202) 482-2000 or via email to: [devans@doc.gov](mailto:devans@doc.gov)

To learn more about why these proposed tariffs are bad for America, visit: [www.freetradeinseafood.com](http://www.freetradeinseafood.com) or [www.citac.info/shrimp](http://www.citac.info/shrimp)

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