

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 11, 2026

Ambassador Jamieson Greer
United States Trade Representative
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Greer,

We write to express our appreciation for your continued leadership in addressing unfair trade practices and advancing the Administration's America First Trade Policy. Your recent focus on strengthening U.S. supply chains and enforcing trade rules, particularly with respect to fisheries, labor, and non-market practices, has highlighted the urgent need for a comprehensive response to distortions affecting the global seafood sector.

As you know, the April 2025 Executive Order on "Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness" underscores President Trump's commitment to countering unfair foreign trade practices that have significantly eroded the competitiveness of the U.S. seafood industry.¹ The Executive Order specifically directs the USTR to examine the trade practices of major seafood-producing nations and to consider appropriate enforcement responses under Section 301.² As such, we were encouraged by your announcement that you expect to initiate several investigations under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 ("Section 301"), including those related to trade in seafood.³

Consistent with the Executive Order and your stated intent, we respectfully request that the Office of the United States Trade Representative ("USTR") initiate a broad Section 301 investigation into unfair acts, policies, and practices affecting trade in seafood and seafood products. Although we understand that the USTR has historically focused on fisheries subsidies and illegal, unreported, and unregulated ("IUU") fishing when characterizing unfair practices in global seafood trade, these important issues nevertheless only represent a small subset of the structural challenges confronting U.S. seafood producers. A narrow Section 301 investigation will bypass a unique opportunity to meaningfully address the full range of market-distorting practices that suppress prices, distort markets, and displace American seafood harvesting and processing. In contrast, a Section 301 investigation encompassing a broad spectrum of unfair practices, including false labeling and species designations, the abuse of banned antibiotics and fungicides in aquaculture, export and production subsidies, environmental harm, structural excess capacity, labor abuses, and permissive standards with respect to gear usage, would allow the Administration to effectively leverage access to our market to improve conditions overseas and level the playing field for the American seafood industry within its own domestic market.

¹ Executive Orders, *Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness*, The White House (Apr. 17, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/04/restoring-american-seafood-competitiveness/>.

² *Id.* ("The United States Trade Representative shall examine the relevant trade practices of major seafood-producing nations, . . . and consider appropriate responses, including pursuing solutions through negotiations or trade enforcement authorities, such as under section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2411).").

³ USTR, *Ambassador Greer Issues Statement on Supreme Court IEEPA Decision* (Feb. 20, 2026), <https://ustr.gov/about/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2026/february/ambassador-greer-issues-statement-supreme-court-ieepa-decision>.

The U.S. seafood industry is currently experiencing a period of significant economic decline. The most recent data from NOAA Fisheries⁴ indicate that the total value of U.S. commercial seafood landings has fallen dramatically over the past five years, from \$6.5 billion in 2021 to \$4.9 billion in 2024. This marks a reduction of roughly 25 percent, with fishermen losing \$1.6 billion in the value of their catch. Indeed, total landings have fallen below 8 billion pounds for the first time since 1988, reinforcing the decline in both production and value. This reflects not only lower revenues but also the broader erosion of domestic seafood production capacity.

At the same time, the U.S. market has become increasingly reliant on imports. Unlike the broader U.S. food supply, where imports account for a relatively limited share, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, imported seafood accounts for approximately 94 percent of total U.S. consumption.⁵ Moreover, the seafood trade deficit now exceeds \$20 billion.⁶ As domestic seafood production has declined, imports have increased, growing from 5.8 billion pounds in 2019 to 6.4 billion pounds in 2025.

Absent meaningful action, our dependence on foreign sources of supply for this essential source of protein will continue to increase as American fishermen, U.S. aquaculture producers, and seafood processors are forced out of business, undermining the economic viability of domestic seafood production and threatening the long-term stability of rural communities both on the coast and in the interior of the nation that depend on this industry.

Because of the breadth and complexity of these challenges, we encourage the USTR to pursue a seafood-specific Section 301 investigation that examines *all* unfair acts, policies, and practices across the full seafood supply chain from countries including, but not limited to: Argentina, Canada, Chile, China, Ecuador, Egypt, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Spain, Thailand, and Vietnam. A broad-based Section 301 investigation will also help mitigate circumvention risks by addressing the integrated, globalized nature of seafood supply chains, where harvesting, processing, and export functions are frequently distributed across multiple jurisdictions.

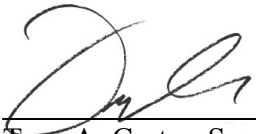
Thank you for considering this request. We look forward to working with you to ensure that U.S. trade policy effectively addresses the challenges facing the domestic seafood industry and restores fair competition in the U.S. market.

Sincerely,

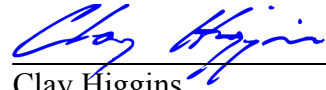
⁴ See NOAA Fisheries, *Fisheries One Stop Shop* (“FOSS”), <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/foss/?p=215:200:17358043157916:Mail:::>

⁵ See U.S. Food and Drug Administration, *FDA Strategy for the Safety of Imported Food*, <https://www.fda.gov/food/importing-food-products-united-states/fda-strategy-safety-imported-food>.

⁶ See U.S. Government Accountability Office, *Food Safety: FDA Should Strengthen Inspection Efforts to Protect the U.S. Food Supply*, GAO-25-107571 (Jan. 8, 2025) at 21 n.3, <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-25-107571>; Executive Orders, *Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness*, The White House (Apr. 17, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/04/restoring-american-seafood-competitiveness/>.



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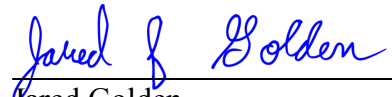
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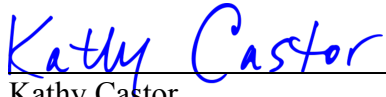
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