

By: LaMantia

S.R. No. 78

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The shrimp industry plays a vital role in the
2 nation's economy and in the prosperity of Gulf Coast communities,
3 where domestic shrimp are harvested and processed; and

4 WHEREAS, In Texas, the industry supports more than 14,000
5 jobs, generating approximately \$850 million in economic value;
6 however, a glut of foreign shrimp imports threatens this industry
7 with collapse; and

8 WHEREAS, Imports of frozen warmwater shrimp nearly doubled
9 between 2013 and 2021, to an unprecedented 1.8 billion pounds; data
10 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration indicates
11 that Texas shrimpers harvested 6.8 million pounds of shrimp in the
12 first five months of 2023, compared to 800 million pounds of
13 imported shrimp in the first half of the year; and

14 WHEREAS, Much of the foreign shrimp is farm-raised and
15 subsidized in order to let producers sharply undercut the price of
16 domestic shrimp; the problem has been well documented since 2005,
17 when the International Trade Commission determined that imports
18 from certain countries were selling at less than fair value, and
19 this continues to occur, despite antidumping regulations; and

20 WHEREAS, While the influx of imported shrimp has driven
21 prices to record lows, Gulf Coast fishermen must contend with the
22 forces of inflation, including historically high fuel prices; it
23 typically costs a trawler tens of thousands of dollars to go out to
24 sea, so many remained tied up at the docks; a severe labor shortage

1 has exacerbated the crisis; and

2 WHEREAS, The sustainability of the domestic shrimp industry
3 is crucial to the survival of many small, family-owned businesses
4 and to the stability of Gulf Coast communities, but this important
5 economic engine is currently imperiled by unfair foreign
6 competition and other rising challenges; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 88th Texas Legislature, 3rd
8 Called Session, hereby reaffirm an unwavering commitment to the
9 shrimping industry and urge the Secretary of the United States
10 Department of Commerce to issue a fishery resource disaster
11 determination for fisheries along the Gulf of Mexico; and, be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate forward official
14 copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to
15 the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce, and to the
16 Assistant Administrator for Fisheries National Oceanic and
17 Atmospheric Administration.