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## CÁMARA NACIONAL DE LAS INDUSTRIAS PESQUERA Y ACUÍCOLA

To: President's Export Council Members  
From: C.P Fernando Medrano  
President of Mexico's National Chamber of Fisheries and Aquaculture Industries  
(CANAINPESCA)  
Date: June 5, 2015  
Subject: Comments for the meeting of the President's Export Council on June 10, 2015.

I write today in connection with the upcoming meeting of the President's Export Council during which the Council will deliberate on recommendations related to promoting the expansion of U.S. exports. As the President of the National Chamber of Fisheries and Aquaculture Industries, CANAINPESCA felt it important to take this important opportunity to comment on a matter of significant interest to both of our countries, both of our shrimp, tuna and sardine industries and all of our respective consumers.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement negotiations have a significant impact on the U.S. and Mexican fisheries and aquaculture industries, as well as on the health and safety of our consumers. Specifically, as has been pointed out by Members of Congress and the Center for Food Safety, Asia, and in particular, Vietnam, is one of the world's largest seafood exporters, but the Vietnamese seafood and aquaculture industry has repeatedly skirted international norms and standards. Exports to the United States have frequently contained illegal veterinary medicines, fungicides and other chemicals that pose significant risks to the health of consumers. Vietnam has steadfastly refused to ensure that its exports meet U.S. food safety standards. Mexico shares these same problems.

In addition, shrimp exports have been illegally dumped into our markets at artificially low prices that unfairly disadvantage U.S. and Mexican shrimpers and farmers. Some exports are also potentially benefitting from illegal government subsidies, which further harms U.S. and Mexican industry. Importantly, Vietnam has also been a point of transshipment of seafood products from China designed to evade antidumping orders, countervailing duty orders and/or Food and Drug Administration Import Alert orders. Finally, the source of Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS) affected shrimp that has caused severe impacts on Mexico's aquaculture industry originated in Asian countries.

The effects on the Tuna Industry could be devastating if we open our borders to a country like Vietnam that has no control over its fishery, therefore there is no clear traceability as to the origin of fishery products and there is no way of knowing actual catch volumes. That country does not play by the same rules including a management plan for the fishery, enforceable fishing restrictions, independent observer programs, compliance with the applicable laws promulgated according to international standards (and with their associated costs).

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In some marine species of sardine, Vietnam is capable of producing large volumes that can flood the U.S. and Mexican market and displace domestic production, adversely impacting the economic viability of our respective industries.

It is our understanding that Vietnam imports high volumes of fish species for processing and subsequent sale, therefore, it is important to maintain and improve the regulation with regard to rules of origin.

As the President's Export Council considers recommendations related to promoting the expansion of exports, it must also consider the impact of TPP negotiations on imports of dangerous fish and shellfish. We urge the Council to press the U.S. Trade Representative to use the TPP negotiations as an opportunity to pressure TPP countries like Vietnam for changes that will better protect the health of consumers and the sustainability of our industries.

Sincerely

C. P. FERNANDO MEDRANO FREEMAN

President