

SEA HARVEST NEWS

MASGP-04-002-02

January 26 2004

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Trade Adjustment Assistance Approved for Shrimp in Alabama.

The Foreign Agriculture Service approved the petition by Alabama shrimpers for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and computed a preliminary adjustment factor of 1 cent per pound shrimp landed and sold in Alabama. Eligible shrimp producers (fishermen) can apply to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) for the assistance. Applications must be filed by **APRIL 12, 2004**.

The following is an outline of what is needed for an application. More detailed information is available from the Farm Service Agency.

Your completed TAA application must include:

- A completed **FSA-229**
- Evidence of your 2002 shrimp marketings
- Income tax records for 2001 and 2002
- Completed **CCC-502** and **AD-1026**
- **SF-1199A**, Direct Deposit Signup

To qualify for TAA assistance, you must meet several eligibility requirements. You must be able to show that:

1. You are a commercial fisherman
2. Your net farm (aquaculture) or fishing income was less in 2002 than in 2001
3. You commercially marketed shrimp in 2001 & 2002
4. Your 3-yr average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) was less than \$2.5-million
5. You received technical assistance from the Extension Service.

The Farm Service Agency will ask you to provide the serial number of your commercial shrimp boat license, or prove that you worked for a share of the catch from a licensed vessel or permitted aquaculture facility.

To document your reduced income, you must provide:

- Your IRS Schedule F (for aquaculture) and Form 4835, and/or provide your IRS Schedule C or C-EZ for 2001 and 2002 showing income from commercial fishing
- Or, provide a certification from a certified public accountant or attorney regarding amounts reported to IRS on these forms for both tax years.

You must be able to show that your net farm or fishing income declined from 2001 to 2002. IRS records must be provided to FSA by September 30, 2004.

To document that you commercially marketed shrimp:

*You must provide acceptable sales receipts or settlement sheets showing the proceeds **you** received for the sale of shrimp between January 1 and December 31, 2002.*

Also:

*These marketing documents must specifically show that **YOU** received payment when the shrimp were sold. In other words, **YOUR NAME** must be on the sales documents*

When you sign the FSA-229, you are certifying that your 3-yr average adjusted gross income (AGI) does not exceed \$2.5-million.

When you attend a technical assistance-training seminar sponsored by the Extension Service, you will receive a certificate of completion. This must be submitted to FSA by September 30, 2004. More information on the times and locations of training sessions will be available in a few weeks.

When you apply for any assistance through the Farm Service Agency (FSA), they will ask you to provide important information about yourself including:

- Your full name
- Your address
- Your social security number
- Your gender
- Your citizenship, or alien status
- Your date of birth
- Your marital status
- Your language preference
- Your race
- Your disability status
- Your employer ID, if you have one
- Organizational papers or partnership agreements (for general partnerships, corporations or other entities)

The following is additional information on completing Form CCC-502. This form is used to determine which "persons" are eligible for payment. *Remember: Benefits are limited to \$10,000 per "person."*

To be considered a separate "**person**", you must meet three requirements. **Each eligible "person" must:**

- 1) Have a separate and distinct interest in the shrimp that are marketed
- 2) Exercise separate responsibility for this interest
- 3) Maintain funds or accounts separate from anyone else.

Form CCC-502 comes in different versions:

- Individuals use CCC-502A
- Partnerships use form CCC-502B
- Corporations and Other Entities use form CCC-502C

All forms are available online at:

<http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/formsearchservlet>

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The Farm Service Agency office in our area is located at:

Baldwin County Farm Service Agency
1504A South US Highway 31
Bay Minette, AL 36507-2611
Phone: 251 937 3297 ext. 2
Fax: 251 580 0026

Forms are available at the Farm Service Agency or the
Alabama Marine Resources Division Office in
Dauphin Island and Gulf Shores or at the Auburn
University Marine Extension and Research Center in
Mobile.