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STOP CHEAP SHRIMP

Executive Summary

Cheap and unsustainable shrimp imports to Canada are dangerous for humans and environment. Antibiotic-resistant shrimp make their way here and pose the risk of causing fatal infections^{1,2}. Other artifacts of cheap shrimp are slavery, habitat loss, and destruction of coastal cities. Canada must stand against unsustainable shrimp imports.

Why Shrimp

Health & Nutrition

Only 5% of our food imports are inspected at the border, **leaving 95% of imports to enter Canada uninspected**³. Unsustainable imported shrimp from countries like Thailand and India were recently sent back for containing Nitrofurans, a carcinogen antibiotic². But antibiotic-resistant bacteria are making their way to Canada despite 5% being inspected. These bacteria can harbour disease and cause fatal infections². We don't need to consume shrimp to ensure a healthy lifestyle. Canada's 2019 food guide recommends "choosing protein foods that come from plants"⁴. Antibiotic use on domestic shrimp is banned by CFIA, yet imported shrimp are not held to the same standard². **Antibiotic resistance is one of the biggest threats to global health**⁵. Once these organisms are here, there is no good way of stopping them from spreading.



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Why Shrimp

Environmental Destruction

Mangroves are natural barriers to natural disasters, saving lives during tsunamis and storms⁶. But mangroves forests are destroyed to increase production and keep up with western world's appetite for shrimp^{7, 1}. Our culinary pleasures and greed are causing people their lives.

Slavery

Undocumented migrant workers are tortured, beaten, forced into slavery and indentured labour to boost production of cheap shrimp for export to the west^{8, 1}.

Recommendations

1. Increase Education

Educate consumers/industry/regulators on the dangers of unsustainable shrimp.

2. Support Testing

Support the development of reliable test kits for end users.

3. Tariff Unsustainable Imports

Tax countries importing unsustainable and unethical shrimp to Canada.

4. Local Support

Increase support for organizations like Ocean Wise and Marine Stewardship Council to monitor and recognize sustainable shrimp.



Unsustainable Shrimp is ...

- Unhealthy
- Unethical
- Destructive to nature
- Costs human lives
- Not welcome in Canada

Overview

The devastation of coastal mangroves that could have lessened the death tolls of tsunamis, the slave migrants of Thailand that are trapped in the shrimp industry, and the carcinogenic and antibiotic-resistant shrimp that make it to Canada, are all **connected**. Our raging appetite for shrimp has done serious harm on a global scale. The hidden cost of ordering a cheap shrimp platter in Canada means someone else is paying a stiff price elsewhere. Canada must stop its consumption of cheap and unsustainable shrimp.

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