

Subject: NFI COVID Sitrep #64 23-24 Jun 2020:
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 7:39:49 PM Pacific Daylight Time
From: John Connelly
To: John Connelly
Attachments: image001.png, image006.jpg



23 - 24 June 2020
NFI COVID-19 Sitrep #64

NFI Actions: China, COVID, Salmon and Seafood NFI members with a senior official representing FDA on the interagency task force addressing the China export situation. Topics included:

1. Timing of when the US government will formally respond, privately and publicly, on China's requirements for testing.
Response: "soon very soon, so thank you for your patience."
2. Timing of US government public affirmation of the safety of US seafood (and other foods)
Response: See [USDA and FDA public statement](#) about US food safety. The US government emphasizes that: 1) COVID is not transmitted through food or food packaging; 2) US food products have all the tools to ensure safe food and a safe workforce (and China has acknowledged this), and; 3) the US Government has provided additional guidance since the onset of COVID
3. GACC apparent (yet not officially announced) requirement that seafood exporters that have identified COVID in their plants inform the GACC
Response: While the USG cannot direct any private company how to react, informing GACC of COVID cases in plants that export seafood to China could be most effective if accompanied by the statements that there is no connection between seafood or food packaging and COVID.

NFI Tools for Members

1. NFI's COVID business webinar series discussed the early prospects for the Alaska salmon season and discussed the will global implications of China's initial allegations of a coronavirus resurgence stemming from imported salmon. A [recording of the discussion](#) and the [presentation](#) are available.
2. The NFI COVID business webinar series will revisit the whitefish category on Wednesday July 1 (1200-130 (eastern) with commentary for industry experts on the markets for pangasius, tilapia, cod and pollock. [Register for the Wednesday whitefish webinar for NFI members](#),

3. NFI's technical webinar series will restart on Friday 26 Jun 1200-100 (eastern) focusing on a review of CDC's progressive tiered approach to testing employees in High Density Critical Infrastructure Workplaces. [Register for this NFI member discussion](#).

Food Safety and Technical Documents

1. NFI sought and are pleased that U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and FDA Commissioner Stephen M. Hahn, M.D., [issued the following statement regarding food export restrictions](#) pertaining to COVID-19:

“The United States understands the concerns of consumers here domestically and around the world who want to know that producers, processors and regulators are taking every necessary precaution to prioritize food safety especially during these challenging times. However, efforts by some countries to restrict global food exports related to COVID-19 transmission are not consistent with the known science of transmission.”

“There is no evidence that people can contract COVID-19 from food or from food packaging. The U.S. food safety system, overseen by our agencies, is the global leader in ensuring the safety of our food products, including product for export.”

Employee and Plant Safety Technical Documents

1. NFI and other associations wrote to [President Trump asking that he prioritize food workers for vaccines](#), once they are developed.

Reopening the Economy and Market Reports

1. President Trump directed the U.S. Trade Representative to determine whether China is [meeting its seafood purchase commitments under Phase 1 trade deal](#), and if he determines it isn't, to take “action to impose reciprocal retaliatory tariffs on seafood exports from China,” according to White House memo.
2. [Datassentials has another fascinating report](#) about trends in restaurants and diners re what changes are likely temporary and what COVID changes permanently. A [recording](#) of this webinar is also available.

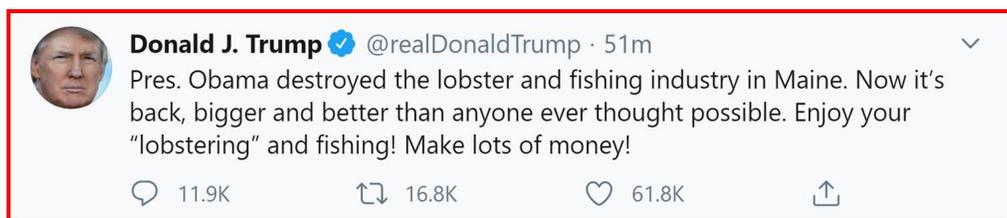
Government Stimulus, Assistance, and Regulatory Relief Programs

1. In a [memo to the Secretaries of Agriculture and Commerce and the USTR](#), President Trump directed that USDA shall:

..... consider including, to the extent permitted by applicable law, the United States lobster industry and other segments of the United States seafood industry in any future assistance provided to mitigate the effects of China’s retaliatory trade practices.”

NFI has sought expansion of USDA program to NFI members in the seafood community.

2. President Trump tweeted about the Maine lobster industry, questioning China’s actions



Media and Other Reports:

1. NFI member Tom Kehoe of Jackson and Partners was [featured on Fox Business](#) discussing the U.S.-China trade relationship, especially on seafood.
2. [NFI’s statement re safety of U.S. foods](#) was mentioned on KNBA radio – an NPR affiliate in Anchorage. The story is a syndication from KDLG, affiliate in Bristol Bay, AK – but the audio report appears to be a new addition in the Anchorage piece.

Government Stimulus, Assistance, and Regulatory Relief Programs

1. NTR

Developing Administration and State Actions and Legislative Activity

1. NOAA’s waiver of fishery monitoring in the Northeast will [expire July 1](#). A [letter from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center](#) outlines the preparations for a safe and efficient redeployment
2. Senate action on liability and further support of families, workers, and business will not take place until after they return from their July 4th in state work session, likely 20 July.

3. The governors of [New York](#), [New Jersey](#) and [Connecticut](#) have issues a joint travel advisory that is effective 11:59pm, Wednesday June 24. Anyone traveling into the three states from a state that has a 10% or higher positivity rate for COVID-19 are to self-quarantine for 14-days. Currently those states are Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Utah.

Federal and State Government Reports

1. Miller Strategies, an NFI consultant, provides a daily summary of White House, Congressional, and political updates for [22 Jun 2020](#)

Previously Reported Government or Industry Actions NFI will store all previous links in the [NFI COVID Resource Center](#).

[NFI offers an antitrust reminder](#) not because of specific seafood industry actions that raise antitrust concerns, but instead simply to highlight DOJ's emphasis on this area of enforcement, and as a reminder that these laws apply during a difficult time for all member companies.