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JC

NFI will observe the signing of one of our nation's foundational documents, the Declaration of Independence, on 4 July. We hope you have a wonderful celebration with family and friends, reflecting on all the opportunities our country provides (even if there remains work to be done).

NFI will shift these situation reports to twice weekly, Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning 7 July.



30 Jun – 1 Jul 2020
NFI COVID-19 Sitrep #66

NFI Tools for Members

1. NFI's COVID business webinar series discussed the sourcing and market conditions for whitefish, reviewing presentations for [Alaska pollock](#) (to receive this information weekly, contact [Craig Morris](#)) and [haddock, cod, pangasius, and tilapia](#). A [recording of the discussion](#) is available.
2. NFI's technical webinar series reviewed testing protocols and the OSHA, CDC, and FDA guidance for seafood workers. The [presentation](#) and a [recording of the discussion](#) is available.
3. There will NOT be a business webinar on 8 July nor a technical webinar on 10 July (we wish all a safe and enjoyable 4th of July celebration).

NFI Advocacy for Members

1. NFI, the Beer Wholesalers, and others have urged Congressional leadership to pass legislation providing a [tax credit to cover the costs of product that perished](#) during the economic shutdown (there was lot of beer left in those kegs).

Food Safety and Technical Documents

1. NFI sought and are pleased that the [U.S. government registered its concerns about the Government of China's requirements re COVID](#) testing through the WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee. The US states, when referencing the testing demands, that:

Such a request of foreign regulators to restrict food and agricultural exports is not appropriate nor scientifically justified. The FAO/WHO Guidance focuses on keeping these workers safe, and also states clearly that there "is no evidence to date of viruses that cause respiratory illnesses being transmitted via food or food packaging." (Para 1.9)

2. In addition, 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.”

3. The Acheson Group recently published a blog noting the [importance of contact tracing but not testing food](#) for COVID.

Employee and Plant Safety Technical Documents

1. NFI reacted positively to [OSHA, CDC, and FDA guidance for protecting seafood workers](#) during COVID. Following these guidelines can help demonstrate that your company has developed a [standard of care](#) appropriate for seafood companies with the knowledge known as of late June 2020.
2. CDC has updated numerous guidance documents over the past few days including the [Use of Cloth Face Coverings](#) to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19

Reopening the Economy and Market Reports

1. For a review of the status of other meat proteins, the Food Protection and Defense Institute [weekly report highlights pork, poultry, and beef markets](#).
2. [Datassentials has another interesting look](#) at the 5 lessons of COVID.
3. The Senate HELP Committee drafted a white paper, [Preparing for Next Pandemic](#), that provides thoughts on future planning and considerations of government actions

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Government Stimulus, Assistance, and Regulatory Relief Programs

1. The House and Senate passed legislation [extending from 30 Jun to 8 Aug the deadline for applying for the PPP](#). President Trump is expected to sign the bill into law.

Media and Other Reports:

1. A widely syndicated (more than 75 outlets) story from the Associated Press takes a look at whether the reduced fishing effort during COVID-19 will have an impact on seafood sustainability: [Worldwide slowdown in fishing unlikely to save rare species](#). NFI notes in the article that fisheries science is a highly technical effort, “it’s much more specific than just give fish a break and they’ll rebuild.”
2. The [Portland Press Herald](#) published a commentary by Ben Martens, president of Maine Coast Fisherman’s Association that says, “Federal COVID response a missed opportunity to help Maine fishermen.” The author highlights that the \$300 million of federal aid for the seafood community “does not even begin to cover the pandemic’s ruinous impacts on our nation’s fishing communities, which generate billions in economic activity annually while also feeding the nation.”
3. Egil Sundheim (Norwegian Seafood Council), Barton Seaver and ASMI are featured in this [Restaurant Business Online](#) story about the seafood supply chain, and how those disruptions are impacting restaurants now.
4. WUSA9 reports [More than half of Maryland crab processing plants shut down due to lack of staff](#) due to “being unable to get foreign workers into the country to pick their crabs.”

Developing Administration and State Actions and Legislative Activity

1. NOAA Fisheries is extending the [waiver granted to vessels with Greater Atlantic Region fishing permits](#) to carry human observers or at-sea monitors through July 31, 2020.

Federal and State Government Reports

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

Other Governments Actions

1. Fisheries and Oceans Canada has extended through 12 August the [period in which observers will not be on vessels](#).

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.