



SEAFOOD INSPECTION PROGRAM
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
1315 EAST-WEST HIGHWAY
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND 20910-3282
USA



April 13, 2010

To: All Seafood Processing Facilities Shipping Fish and Fishery Products to the Russian Federation

From: Timothy Hansen 
Director, Seafood Inspection Program, NOAA Fisheries

Subject: Request for information by Rosselkhoznadzor (Russian Federation Veterinary Service) for information from U.S. exporters to the Russian Federation

As many American exporters to the Russian Federation are aware, there are new certification and licensing requirements for the movement of seafood into Russia. The U.S. Government has had to provide to the Russian authorities a list of companies whose plants meet Russian requirements. Russian importers must be licensed to import product from individual companies. The Russian authorities have therefore asked for lists of Russian importers of U.S. products on a company-by-company basis. The Seafood Inspection Program does not collect or maintain this information and cannot legally provide this information to another government. The Russian authorities have asked that U.S. exporters provide this information directly to in the format of the attached letter. Companies who wish to export to Russia are advised that they should provide this information as prescribed in the letter from Dr. Saurin Deputy Head of Rosselkhoznadzor so that their importers will be able to obtain import licenses.

To minimize any possible Russian claims of non-compliance by U.S. industry, industry should consider informing the Seafood Inspection Program if they have provided this information to the Russian authorities.

Also, please be advised that NOAA Fisheries is seeking an extension of the April 15, 2010 deadline because we believe it is unrealistic given that we received the correspondence only last week.