

**PUBLIC NOTICE - ST. BERNARD PARISH COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING - AGENDA**

Email: radams@sbgg.net

(504) 278-4228

(504) 278-4209 (fax)

Posted 8/29/23

Wednesday, August 30, 2023

4:15 PM

Council Chambers

Page 1 of 1

Sign Interpreter will be provided if requested 48 working hours in advance. Should an interpreter be needed, it is advised that the interested person contact the Clerk of Council at 278-4228. All accessible formats are available upon request.

**Upon call of the Chair and in the interest of public health and safety
this special meeting shall be called.**

- A. Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call
- B. Invocation
- C. Pledge of Allegiance

RESOLUTIONS

1. Adopt **Resolution SBPC #2319-08-23**, a resolution respectfully requesting that the Governor of the State of Louisiana issue an Emergency Declaration Pertaining to the Louisiana Shrimp Industry.
(Councilmember Everhardt)

Next Regular scheduled Council Meeting will be held Tuesday, September 5, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

Approved by: *Richard Lewis* Time: 4:11 p.m. Date: 8/29/23

#1

EXTRACT OF THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. BERNARD, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE ST. BERNARD PARISH GOVERNMENT COMPLEX, 8201 WEST JUDGE PEREZ DRIVE, CHALMETTE, LOUISIANA ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2023 AT FOUR FIFTEEN P.M.

On motion of xxxx, seconded by xxxx, it was moved to **adopt** the following resolution:

RESOLUTION SBPC #2319-08-23

A RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA ISSUE AN EMERGENCY DECLARATION PERTAINING TO THE LOUISIANA SHRIMP INDUSTRY.

WHEREAS, St. Bernard Parish is requesting an emergency declaration to declare a fisheries catastrophe arising from the surge of imported shrimp in unrestricted volumes; and,

WHEREAS, the fisheries industry is a cornerstone of both the economy and cultural heritage of our region, and it has been brought to our attention that the state of Louisiana accounts for 924.4 million pounds of wild-caught shrimp per Wildlife and Fisheries data.

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana encompasses 5,303 commercial fisheries licenses, which underscores the significance of the fisheries sector within our state. One out of every 70 jobs in Louisiana is related to the seafood industry, which as a whole has an economic impact of over \$2.4 billion annually for Louisiana. Many of these jobs are in family-owned-and-operated companies that have worked for generations to bring the finest seafood to the tables of the world.

WHEREAS, since the 1980, the Gulf States accounted for 86% of commercially wild-caught white shrimp, totaling more than 3.3 billion pounds. In 1980, the average dockside wild-caught shrimp price was valued at approximately \$6.50 per pound, which fell to \$2.50 per pound in 2014, and has now plummeted to approximately less than \$1.00 per pound. While today's average price of fuel is \$3.70 per gallon. In the 1980's fuel prices were approximately \$.75 a gallon. The American Wild-Caught Seafood Harvesters of the Gulf of Mexico are facing some of the lowest prices due to foreign shrimp being dumped into the United States markets from many foreign countries.

Page -2-
Extract #1 continued
August 30, 2023

WHEREAS, in 2005, the International Trade Commission (ITC) issued a determination based on Section 735(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, stating that the United States industry had suffered material injury due to the import of certain non-canned warmwater shrimp and prawns from Brazil, China, Ecuador, India, Thailand, and Vietnam, subsequently sold in the United States below fair value, as confirmed by the Department of Commerce.

WHEREAS, the ongoing distressing trends faced by our American Wild-Caught Seafood Harvesters are unsustainable, pushing numerous industry participants to the brink and compelling them to leave their vessels unused and docked. Also doors shutting for docks and processors.

WHEREAS, despite the ITC's recent unanimous affirmation of anti-dumping duty orders on imported shrimp from China, India, Thailand, and Vietnam following their third five-year review, a dire need persists for more comprehensive actions addressing the deluge of imported shrimp from Ecuador and many other foreign countries.

WHEREAS, Ecuador has emerged as a global leader in shrimp supply growth, with exponential expansion, importing over 713 million pounds of farmed shrimp annually into the United States, experiencing a 54% surge since 2020.

WHEREAS, further compounding the issue are health concerns associated with imported shrimp, which often fall short of adhering to domestic health standards. A 2017 GAO report revealed that 12% of shrimp samples tested positive for unsafe drugs, with the FDA examining a mere 1% of all seafood imports for potential issues.

WHEREAS, the Department of Commerce has exercised its discretionary authority to reduce antidumping duties applicable to Indian shrimp.

WHEREAS, operating within the framework of the Seafood Nutrition Partnership initiative, NOAA actively supports a comprehensive seafood marketing endeavor with the goal of nurturing the consumption of U.S. seafood, spanning across both domestically sourced and imported varieties. Notably, entities of significant scale involved in seafood importation and major chain restaurants, exclusively reliant on imported shrimp, are in pursuit of a funding allocation of \$25 million annually for a span of five years, as part of their proposal submitted to NOAA.

Page -3-
Extract #1 continued
August 30, 2023

WHEREAS, it is imperative to note that numerous top-volume shrimp-importing countries to the United States uphold lower wages, diminished workplace safety, compromised health and environmental standards, and inferior labor practices, in stark contrast to the United States.

WHEREAS, the protection of American Wild-Caught Seafood Harvesters, Docks and Processors through commerce and trade policies is paramount, safeguarding them from foreign competitors, including instances of slave labor.

WHEREAS, a declaration of disaster is warranted by shrimp dumping, owing to the magnitude of the potential damage and future damages, the rapidity of the continuing decrease in marketability of domestic wild-caught shrimp, and the imminent threat of disaster.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Parish President and the St. Bernard Parish Council, the Governing Authority, does hereby request that Governor John Bell Edwards issue an Emergency Declaration pertaining to Louisiana shrimp industry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the declaration of disaster empowers the implementation of controls on activities that exacerbate the risk of public harm.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these controls hold the potential to protect lives, safeguard property, and mitigate the threat of the destruction of the economies throughout coastal communities, upon which the residents of St. Bernard Parish depend.

The above and foregoing having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereupon resulted as follows:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

The Council Chair, Mr. Lewis, cast his vote as **xxx**.

And the motion was declared **adopted** on the 30th day of August, 2023.

Page -4-
Extract #1 continued
August 30, 2023

CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of a motion adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Council of the Parish of St. Bernard, held at Chalmette, Louisiana, on Wednesday, August 30, 2023.

Witness my hand and the seal
of the Parish of St. Bernard on
this 30th day of August, 2023.

ROXANNE ADAMS
CLERK OF COUNCIL