Title: Louisiana Crawfish Tail Meat and Competition From China: An Analysis of the Effectiveness of Antidumping Duties

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Abstract: Louisiana accounts for more than 90% of U.S. production of crawfish. While the majority of the product is sold live for crawfish boils, approximately 15%-30% of the domestic output has historically been processed for the tail meat. As a result of increasing competition from China, Louisiana processors filed an antidumping petition alleging that frozen tail meat product from China was being dumped resulting in material injury to the domestic processing industry. In the following year, the United States International Trade Commission found that dumped product from China was causing material injury to the domestic processing industry and large duties (generally in excess of 100%), as determined by the U.S. Department of Commerce, were subsequently imposed. Because U.S. Customs had considerable problems collecting these duties, exports from China to the United States have, over time, continued to increase; leading to the conclusion that the imposition of large duties have been only a minor deterrent to increasing supply from China due to exporters being able to evade the duties. This paper will examine: (a) the overall effectiveness of the duties on imported tail meat from China, (b) means by which exporters evaded duties, and (c) a discussion of Byrd monies distributed to the processing sector and the impact of the Byrd funds.