

ALL CATFISH

SHOULD BE TREATED EQUALLY!

What's taking so long?

The U.S. Congress passed a law June 18, 2008 requiring that imported catfish and related species should meet the same tough USDA health and safety standards as meat and poultry before it is sold to American consumers.

Nearly one and one-half years later, American consumers are still waiting!

As Alabama state officials discovered, we're sitting on a ticking time bomb.

In recent months, Alabama authorities have intercepted thousands of pounds of contaminated catfish and related fish from Vietnam, China, Cambodia, Indonesia and Thailand that slipped through the current weak safety net of U.S. oversight and nearly landed on Alabama dinner plates.

In fact, only 2 percent of the 5.2 billion pounds of imported seafood – including catfish and catfish-like products – is being inspected for U.S. health and safety standards.

The State of Alabama found illegal and potentially dangerous drugs in Vietnamese and other Asian catfish-like species. Several foreign countries have halted imports of catfish and similar products from Asia in the past year after finding evidence of chemicals that can cause cancer and because of concerns over unsanitary farming conditions.

Our federal government needs to act now to protect American consumers. Imported catfish and related species should be subject to the same tough USDA standards that govern imported beef and poultry.

AMERICAN FAMILIES SHOULDN'T BE AT RISK ONE MORE DAY.



Catfish Farmers of America

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