



ECONOMIC AND TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA FACT SHEET

SEAFOOD

The Phase One economic and trade agreement signed by the United States and China on January 15, 2020, will provide U.S. fishermen and seafood companies expanded access to China's rapidly growing market for imported seafood products.

Market Overview: As incomes rise in China, consumption of animal proteins such as seafood is becoming more popular among Chinese consumers. In addition, China is a major partner for U.S. seafood producers who ship raw seafood to China for further processing. However, in recent years, U.S. seafood exports to China have been hampered by restrictive Chinese regulatory initiatives. The Phase One agreement addresses these limitations and gives U.S. seafood companies increased access to the China market.

Key Achievements:

China has agreed to:

- Approve 26 species of seafood for importation into China;
- Allow imports from U.S. seafood and fishmeal facilities that are in good standing with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA);
- Ensure it updates seafood and fishmeal facility registrations within 20 business days of receipt from the FDA and NOAA; and
- Ensure the continued use of existing bilaterally-agreed certificates issued by NOAA.

Audits/Inspections: China has agreed to not require any routine audits or inspections of U.S. aquatic product facilities. However, in accordance with international standards, China may perform risk-based audits in coordination with the relevant U.S. competent authority. China may also conduct inspections of a risk-based selection of shipments of U.S. aquatic products at the port of entry. China will notify the United States if it notices a significant, sustained, or recurring pattern of non-conformity by a particular facility and if it intends to restrict imports from that facility. The United States and China will work together to resolve any such issues should they be detected.

Additional Information for Exporters:

- To be eligible to ship seafood products to China, U.S. producers must be registered with the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC). U.S. producers can register with GACC or renew or update their existing registration by contacting the U.S. Food and Drug Administration: <https://www.fda.gov/food/food-export-lists/seafood-exports-european-union-and-china>.
- U.S. seafood producers must also ensure consignments destined for China are accompanied by a certificate from NOAA: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/export-requirements-country-and-jurisdiction-f#china>.
- New to the China market? For more information about certification, documentation, and registration requirements, and for assistance with detained shipments, contact USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service at ChinaAgreement@usda.gov for more information. You can also contact NOAA at steven.wilson@noaa.gov.