Thai Frozen Foods Association Announces the Elimination of External Shrimp Pre-Processing Operations

Bangkok, Thailand (21 December, 2015), The Thai Frozen Foods Association (TFFA) today moved to eradicate third party pre-processing operations from the Thai shrimp supply chain of its members, effective end of December 2015.

The Association’s groundbreaking move follows a vote by members to reduce the risk of any illegal labor practices in the Thai shrimp supply chain.

From January 1, 2016 all members of the TFFA will bring all shrimp pre-processing operations in-house in order to exercise full control over the work conditions of employees in the extended supply chain.

In support of the transition, TFFA will work with local NGO’s to offer employment opportunities to workers who were previously employed by external pre-processors. Companies who are members of the TFFA have signed up to adhere to strict rules regarding employment conditions aimed at eradicating human trafficking and illegal labor practices.

“As an Association and a representative of Thailand seafood industry, we are committed to fight against human rights violations and illegal labor in the supply chain”, said Dr. Poj Aramwattananon, President of the Thai Frozen Foods Association.

“It is clear that complete transparency and full oversight is required. For this reason, our members voted to bring all pre-processing operations of the shrimp supply chain in-house, so that there could be no question of any impropriety at any stage of our processing”.

“We will continue to work with all stakeholders to address critical issues for the industry. It is a significant initiative that will help strengthen an oversight of the Thai shrimp supply chain. Any Association members who continue to source from external pre-processors from January 1, 2016 will face the severe consequences of losing their membership and their ability to export Thai shrimp product overseas”, Dr. Poj concluded.