



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

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## Philippines

### Fishery Products

### Ban on Pacific White Shrimp Lifted

**2007**

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**Report Highlights:**

On January 8, the Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA) issued Fisheries Administrative Order No. 225 lifting the ban on the importation of Pacific white shrimps, known scientifically as *Penaeus vannamei*. DA expects domestic shrimp production to double within the next two years following the reintroduction of *vannamei* stock into the country.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Manila [RP1]  
[RP]

On January 8, the Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA) issued Fisheries Administrative Order No. 225 lifting the six-year ban on the importation of live Pacific white shrimps, known scientifically as *Penaeus vannamei*. The DA projects that the lifting of the ban would result in the doubling of domestic shrimp production within the next two years. The *vannamei* stock is believed to grow faster than the local black tiger prawn and requires less expensive low-protein feed. This follows a two-year intensive study and testing period by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) on imported Pacific white shrimp stocks.

Fisheries Administrative Order No. 207, issued by the DA in 2001, banned the importation and culture of live shrimp and prawns in the country to protect the local shrimp industry from contamination by the Taura virus that had nearly wiped out shrimp farms in various parts of Asia.

Under the new directive, grow-out farmers must have a permit to import brood stock from BFAR, which will be issued on the basis of inspection of hatchery facilities. Such inspection and accreditation will be undertaken by the National Fishery Research and Development Institute and the concerned BFAR Regional Office.

The administrative order likewise states that the brood stock must come only from the eight brood stock facilities in the United States that are known to have the capacity to produce brood stock that are specific pathogen-free or specific pathogen-resistant. The eight brood stock facilities are High Health Aquaculture, Inc. (Hawaii), Kona Bay Marine Resources (Hawaii), Molokai Sea Farms International (Hawaii), Rainbow Hawaii Farms (Hawaii), Shrimp Production Hawaii, Inc. (Hawaii), Shrimp Improvement Systems, Inc. (Florida), Harlingen Shrimp Farms, Ltd. (Texas) and SyAqua USA (Kentucky).

Also under the guidelines of the directive, a brood stock facility must have a minimum of two years disease-free status, as certified by a competent authority from the country of origin, and must submit a disease history for the period covering its commercial establishment to the present.