

U.S. Antidumping on Vietnamese Catfish: Impacts on Mekong Farmers

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Abstract:

This paper explores some of the impacts of the U.S. antidumping policy on Vietnamese catfish on farm outcomes. In 2003, after claims of antidumping, the U.S. imposed tariffs on imports of catfish from Vietnam. As a result, Vietnamese exports of catfish to the U.S. market sharply declined. Using a panel data of Vietnamese households, we quantify the costs of this policy to catfish producers in the Mekong delta. On average, we estimate a drop in fishing income of 17-63 percent and in total income of 3-10 percent. Household responded by decreasing input use in fishing activities (by 17-32 percent) and in agriculture (by 12-16 percent). Total per capita expenditure dropped by 11-17 percent, but expenditure on education or health was not affected. The total labor supply of the household increased by 5-8 percent, caused mainly by an increase in the labor supply of adult females. There is no evidence of impacts on school attendance and child labor. This suggests that farmers viewed the income shock as transitory.