

Talking Points from National Fisheries Institute – (NFI) – Regarding Japanese Situation

April 6, 2011

- 1) The FDA has unequivocally stated seafood from the U.S. waters of the North Pacific is [safe to eat](#).
- 2) Less than one tenth of 1 percent of the seafood Americans eat comes from Japan.
- 3) The seafood community has been a full participant in stakeholder briefings with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA.)
- 4) The seafood community is not only happy with the level of regulatory oversight committed to this effort, we are comfortable with assurances that those regulators [are prepared](#) to launch a multi-agency testing and inspection effort, in the unlikely scenario that airborne pollutants could affect U.S. fishermen or fish landed in the U.S.
- 5) When it comes to seafood and food safety groups like NOAA, the FDA and EPA have a history of working together. They did it in the Gulf of Mexico during the oil spill and they're doing it successfully now.
- 6) We've been in close contact with NOAA, FDA and EPA and we're pleased with their commitment, their coordination and their communication and what they're communicating® to consumers loud and clear is that American seafood is *safe* and anything from the affected area in Japan is being tested.
- 7) It is important to understand that misinformation about the tragedy in Japan and the relative safety of seafood has the ability to cost hardworking Americans their jobs. Just like during the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico exaggeration and hysteria over gulf seafood compounded that tragedy. There is no need for a repeat of that here. Gold standard science and robust regulation is keeping Americans and the seafood they enjoy safe.
- 8) Over simplified, cartoonish graphics that depict radioactive fish swimming towards the U.S. are a gross over simplification and are quite frankly erroneous. Regulators are clear, the great quantity of water in the Pacific Ocean rapidly and effectively dilutes radioactive material, so fish and seafood are likely to be **unaffected**. While unaffected seafood isn't the headline some seek during a disaster like this one it is simply the truth
- 9) Any suggestion that American fishing fleets are not operating at full capacity based on concerns about the incident in Japan would be a false representation.
- 10) FDA's declaration about the safety of seafood makes it easy to continue eating fish from all over and supporting American seafood.

Thank you.

Gavin Gibbons
National Fisheries Institute

