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Fortune International Applauds President's Executive Order on American Seafood Competitiveness

Bensenville, IL – May 8, 2020 – Fortune Fish & Gourmet, a member of <u>Stronger America Through</u> <u>Seafood (SATS)</u>, applauds the Administration's Executive Order on American seafood competitiveness signed into law by the President on May 7, 2020.

Sean O'Scannlain, President and CEO of Fortune International and a Board Member of SATS, said, "Now is the time to embrace new opportunities for American workers and American consumers. The US seafood community has long understood the importance of supplementing wild-capture fisheries with sustainably farm-raised seafood. We simply cannot meet the rising global demand for healthful animal protein without farming fish. We need both sustainable, local food AND new job opportunities for newly unemployed Americans. Today's Executive Action recognizes a need and an innovative, thoughtful program to meet that need using American workers, American technology and American resources."

The President's Executive Order increases coordination among agencies and clarifies existing regulations to reduce barriers that currently limit offshore aquaculture in U.S. federal waters. Further, it outlines regulatory reform to maximize commercial fishing, combats illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and outlines a process for developing Aquaculture Opportunity Areas suitable for commercial aquaculture in federal waters, taking into consideration input from all stakeholders and relevant agencies.

Aquaculture is the fastest-growing food sector in the world, but the U.S. ranks only 16th in the production of farm-raised seafood. Through the expansion of offshore aquaculture, which will complement wild caught fish harvesting, the U.S. can increase production of American seafood to meet growing global demand for sustainable and healthy seafood.

Learn more about the benefits of aquaculture here: https://www.strongerthroughseafood.org/multimedia-center

About Fortune International

<u>Fortune Fish & Gourmet</u> in Bensenville, IL, Saint Louis, MO, Kansas City, MO, Minneapolis, MN, Bayou La Batre, AL, Birmingham, AL and Picayune, MS, <u>Fortune Imports</u>, <u>Chef Martin's Old World Butcher Shop</u> and <u>Coastal Seafoods retail stores</u>. Fortune Fish & Gourmet is a full-service processor and distributor



providing white-tablecloth restaurants, private clubs, elegant hotels and gourmet retail stores with the finest quality fresh, live and frozen seafood and gourmet foods. Fortune handles more than 10,000 seafood and gourmet products, selected to exceed the high standards embraced by their quality focused customer base. Fortune currently services customers throughout the Central United Sates with a fleet of refrigerated vehicles and nationally through FedEx and common carriers. Since 2001, Fortune International has brought innovation to the food business, consistently raising the bar for integrity, quality, sustainability and service.

Fortune Imports is a global procurement subsidiary, focused on importing products based on the key principals of ethical, sustainable and superior quality.

Chef Martin Old World Butcher Shop is a complete line of food service and retail sausages created in small batches, using all-natural ingredients and authentic recipes.

The Coastal retail stores are "The Twin City's Best Fish Markets" located in Minneapolis and St. Paul Minnesota.

To learn more about Fortune International visit: www.fortunefishco.net, www.fortuneimports.net, www.coastalseafoods.com, or call 630.860.7100.

About Stronger America Through Seafood

Stronger America Through Seafood (SATS) advocates for policies and regulations that help secure a stronger America through increased U.S. production of healthful, sustainable, and affordable seafood. Learn more at www.strongerthroughseafood.org.