

May 27, 2016

Mr. Alfred V. Almanza, Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety
United States Department of Agriculture
331-E, Jamie L. Whitten Building
12 Street and Jefferson Drive, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Transmitted via facsimile: (202) 205-0158

Dear Mr. Almanza:

Food & Water Watch has received information that recent shipments of catfish and/or catfish products from the People's Republic of China have arrived at ports-of-entry for inspection by the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). When the shippers have been informed that their products have been targeted for microbiological and residue sampling, they have refused to permit FSIS inspection personnel to take samples and the shipments of the products were allegedly returned to the People's Republic of China.

We have several questions about these incidents:

- 1) When did these incidents occur and at what ports-of-entry did they occur?
- 2) What FSIS import establishments were involved in these incidents?
- 3) What assurances do you have that the shipments actually returned to the People's Republic of China and there was not an attempt by the shippers to enter any other ports-of-entry in the U.S. or have their products shipped to another country?

I would greatly appreciate an expedited response to my inquiry. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (202) 683-2449.

Sincerely,



Tony Corbo, Sr. Lobbyist