Louisiana Shrimp & Petroleum Festival: Extended Backstory

This year's Louisiana Shrimp & Petroleum Festival was the 89th annual for Morgan City, once the capital of shrimping in Louisiana. Over the years, the processors have closed and the fishing fleet has dwindled to almost nothing, but still the festival goes on.

Local fishermen invited SeaD Consulting to the festival. They believed that imported farm-raised shrimp were being sold to festival goers. If the vendors weren't selling local shrimp at a festival to celebrate the Louisiana shrimp industry … that's bad news on many levels.

SeaD purchased shrimp at five booths serving boiled shrimp to the public. On each occasion, we asked the same question, "Are these local shrimp?" Every booth answered, "Yes."

SeaD then used the rapid genetic test on the samples. Of the five samples tested, only one proved to be local, as promoted: WoodDreaux's Cajun Cuisine. The other four were farm-raised imported shrimp, confirming the commercial fishermen's suspicions. Customers were completely unaware of the origin of their shrimp.

The four samples identified as farm-raised were almost identical in appearance, so we decided to send samples to Florida State University lab for confirmation. SeaD results were confirmed by their rapid genetic test. To triple confirm the results, FSU sent these samples off for genetic barcoding — and the RIGHTTest rapid results were validated once again.

This is just one example of the impact of deceptive practices on our commercial fishermen and the communities that depend on them.

The next time you see nets and pictures of fishing boats on the walls, be wary. SeaD Consulting has developed a Rapid ID Genetic High-Accuracy Test (RIGHT) to catch wrongdoers at every level of the supply chain, offering hope for the American commercial fishing industry, and allowing consumers to get what they pay for.

Actual genetic test results available upon request.