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Note: [Media Kit Link] for photos, videos, report, SMEs

Genetic Testing Finds One-Third of Westbank Restaurants Serving Imported Shrimp Without Disclosure

SeaD Genetic Testing Reveals Low Shrimp Authenticity Rates on the Westbank of New Orleans

Westbank, La. — December 29, 2025 — SeaD Consulting today announced the results of genetic testing using their Rapid ID Genetic High-accuracy Test (RIGHTTest™) conducted on shrimp dishes served at restaurants across the Westbank of New Orleans. Testing revealing significantly lower authenticity rates than those previously found in Slidell and the greater New Orleans area.

The Westbank, a collection of communities located just across the Mississippi River from downtown New Orleans, is widely known for its rich cultural heritage, strong neighborhood identities, and long-standing seafood traditions. With deep ties to commercial fishing families and Louisiana cuisine, the area is often assumed by consumers to be a reliable source of local wild-caught shrimp.

Between December 16 and 17, 2025, SeaD sampling teams conducted **random genetic testing at 24 restaurants** throughout the Westbank. Samples were analyzed to determine whether shrimp marketed or implied as local wild-caught Louisiana shrimp were authentic.

Key Findings

- **16 of 24 restaurants (66%)** were found to be serving **authentic local wild-caught shrimp**
- **8 of 24 restaurants (33%)** were found to be serving **imported, farm-raised shrimp**
    - None of the eight restaurants had signage as required by law indicating they were selling imports

- Seven of the eight restaurants verbalized and/or had menus indicating domestic wild-caught shrimp were being served
- One of the eight restaurant's staff did not know what was being served

These findings indicate a substantially **lower authenticity rate** than SeaD's previous testing in **Slidell** and **New Orleans proper**, both of which demonstrated higher compliance with local seafood authenticity expectations.

Louisiana Labeling Law Non-Compliance

In addition to genetic findings, SeaD's sampling team reported **zero compliance** with Louisiana's seafood disclosure laws among restaurants found to be serving imported shrimp.
State law requires restaurants serving imported shrimp to clearly disclose that information to consumers through signage or menu language. **None of the eight restaurants serving imports displayed any such disclosure**, despite legal requirements.

Head of the Louisiana Shrimp Task Force Andrew Blanchard said, "We are happy to share all the results of the genetic testing with the Louisiana Department of Health upon their request." He added, "When the local shrimp is so abundant, there's no excuse not to serve them."

Restaurants Found to Be Serving Authentic Local Wild-Caught Shrimp

The following restaurants were confirmed through genetic testing to be serving authentic Louisiana wild-caught shrimp:

1. **Amy's Seafood Mart** — 100 Westbank Expy., Westwego, LA 70094
2. **Behrman Cajun Seafood** — 4021 Behrman Pl, New Orleans, LA 70114
3. **Big EZ Seafood** — 1632 Lafayette St, Gretna, LA 70053
4. **Cajunland Seafood** — 2139 Stumpf Blvd # J, Terrytown, LA 70056
5. **Captain Dat Seafood** — 2001 Lapalco Blvd Suite B2, Harvey, LA 70058
6. **Dat Cajun Seafood** — 3020 General De Gaulle Dr, New Orleans, LA 70114
7. **Dry Dock Café** — 133 Delaronde St, New Orleans, LA 70114
8. **J's Bayou Seafood** — 933 Behrman Hwy Suite F & G, Terrytown, LA 70056
9. **Juneau's Sandwich Shop** — 4016 7th St, Marrero, LA 70072
10. **The Little House** — 640 Bouny St, New Orleans, LA 70114
11. **New Orleans Hamburger and Seafood** — 2515 Manhattan Blvd, Harvey, LA 70058
12. **PO Boy Depot** — 4101 Ames Blvd, Marrero, LA 70072
13. **The Red Maple** — 1036 Lafayette St, Gretna, LA 70053
14. **River Fine Foods Store** — 1403 Patterson Rd, New Orleans, LA 70114
15. **Ruth's Seafood** — 100 Westbank Expy., Stall #1, Westwego, LA 70094

16. **Salvo's Seafood** — 7742 LA-23, Belle Chasse, LA 70037

Of note is that Westwego market vendors were tested independently by Fox TV News Reporter Meg Gatto and Louisiana Illuminator Reporter Wes Muller using SeaD's RIGHTTest previously. The ones SeaD tested this go around were also found to be authentically providing local wild-caught shrimp.

Context and Consumer Impact

SeaD's testing highlights ongoing challenges facing Louisiana's seafood economy, where imported shrimp continues to be sold without proper disclosure, undermining both consumer trust and local fishing communities. The Westbank's lower authenticity rate underscores the need for increased enforcement, transparency, and consumer awareness.

About the Louisiana Shrimp Task Force

The Louisiana Shrimp Task Force advises the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and related agencies on protecting and promoting the state's wild shrimp industry. The group works to strengthen transparency, local economies, and seafood quality for consumers.

About SEAD Consulting

SEAD (Seafood Development) Consulting blends science and policy to defend seafood authenticity. Its RIGHTTest™ program is revolutionizing how consumers, restaurants, and regulators verify species in real time to combat mislabeling, inauthenticity, and to protect coastal community livelihoods.
Visit www.seadconsulting.com to learn more or report suspected mislabeling.

Disclaimer**:** SeaD's testing and reporting is intended to be used as an investigatory tool to assist the restaurant industry's fight against seafood mislabeling and is not intended for use in any legal proceedings, nor may SeaD's data, testing, or reporting be used in any legal proceeding without the express written authorization of SeaD.

#KnowYourShrimp #SEADConsulting #LSTF

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