



## News Release

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**For Immediate Release**

### **NCBFAA Expresses Concern With NOAA SIMP Implementation Challenges**

**Washington, DC:** In a [letter to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's ITDS Program Coordinator \(NOAA\)](#), National Customs Broker and Forwarder Association of America, Inc. (NCBFAA) President Geoffrey Powell expressed concern about the trade's readiness to meet the agency's new extensive entry data requirements for the Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP).

Beginning January 1, under the Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP), importers are required to electronically submit detailed data elements for 11 species of seafood and seafood-containing food products, including: where the fish was caught, the type of net used, the name of the vessel, where the fish was off-loaded, the weight of the fish when it was off-loaded, the name of the processor, among other details.

"There remains much confusion and misunderstanding in many parts of the supply chain," wrote NCBFAA's President Geoff Powell, "Even when the U.S. importer is fully aware of his obligations, the task at hand is daunting. The global seafood supply chain is a very complex network of people and companies..., making the SIMP electronic filing data especially hard to gather -- particularly when a typical shipment mixes seafood from multiple sources. It requires the importer to gather details not just from his immediate foreign supplier, but data from his supplier's suppliers -- which can be many layers deep."

With the pilot to test the new program only recently started, the NCBFAA President told NOAA, "We can tell you with certainty, four to six weeks of pilot testing is not sufficient lead-time to ensure a successful implementation on January 1."

NCBFAA urged the agency to plan a "soft compliance" policy with regard to the new data entry requirements in ACE as the seafood supply chain adjusts to the new requirements.

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the NCBFAA represents more than 1,000 member companies with 110,000 employees in international trade - the nation's leading freight forwarders, customs brokers, ocean transportation intermediaries (OTIs), NVOCCs and air cargo agents, serving more than 250,000 importers and exporters. Established in 1897 in New York, NCBFAA is the effective national voice of the industry. Through its various committees, counsel and representatives, the Association maintains a close watch over legislative and regulatory issues that affect its members. It keeps them informed of these and other related issues through its weekly Monday Morning eBriefing, and various meetings and conferences throughout the year.

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