



## Trace Register Inc. says its electronic tracking system to be used in FDA / GAA shrimp tests

SEAFOOD.COM NEWS [Trace-Register] Seattle-Dec. 8, 2008 - -Trace Register's traceability system will be used by the Global Aquaculture Alliance and Aquaculture Certification Council, who have been selected to participate in the FDA program.

The FDA pilot is testing qualified and legitimate third party certification as a way to help verify the safety of products from both foreign and domestic food companies, the FDA has stated.

Trace Register CEO Phil Werdal said his company's participation in the FDA pilot is a significant acknowledgment of the role of supply chain traceability in assuring the safety of the food supply.

He pointed out that the FDA at present can inspect only one percent of the food that is imported in this country. The use of third-party certification, combined with comprehensive product traceability information, has the potential to significantly improve food safety by enabling the FDA to monitor a significantly higher percentage of imported food.

The pilot project addresses farmed shrimp, but it could easily be expanded to cover other food products as well, Werdal said.

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt, who has oversight of the FDA, has been widely quoted as saying that you can't inspect your way to food safety, Werdal noted.

Werdal said he is confident the FDA pilot will help regulators understand the value of complete supply chain traceability as a tool to give the green light to those who play by the rules, while keeping out those who do not. Supply chain traceability brings much-needed transparency to a very complex market, Werdal said. When a company or industry can trace a product back to the hatchery or farm and track it forward to the point of purchase, it introduces trust, adds value, and reduces risk, he added.

The Trace Register<sup>a</sup> system offers supply chain traceability for the seafood and produce industries and is currently used by more than 190 customers in 16 countries. Headquartered in Seattle, the company also has offices in Japan and China.

John Sackton, Editor And Publisher  
[Seafood.com News](http://www.seafood.com/news) 1-781-861-1441  
[Email comments to jsackton@seafood.com](mailto:jsackton@seafood.com)

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