



Statement from The Norwegian Seafood Federation (Sjømat Norge):

New or increased import duties on seafood products in the US market?

Although we see no reason for increased import tariffs on Norwegian seafood products in the US market, concerns have been raised about a possible risk for increased duties imposed by the new US administration.

In this respect, please observe that there are some limitations for maximum import duty levels:

As a member of The World Trade Organization (WTO), USA is committed to keep the import duties at certain bound levels:

For the major seafood products imported from Norway the bound levels are as follows:

- *For Atlantic Salmon, the United States tariff binding is set to 0% (for fresh or frozen whole salmon as well as fresh or frozen fillets).*
- *For smoked salmon, USA has a tariff binding set to 5%.*
- *For fresh and frozen whitefish (Cod, Saithe, Haddock) the tariff binding is set to 0%.*
- *For fresh or frozen King Crab, the applied duty rate is 0%, while the tariff binding is set to 7.5%.*

According to statistics, between 70 and 85% of the seafood consumed in the US is imported. Any new or increased import tariffs on seafood products may have a significant impact on price levels for seafood and seafood consumption, which in turn may cause some unforeseen public health issues.

It is also worth mentioning that increased duties on seafood products may be a challenge for the American seafood industry, as it may contribute to the decline of the seafood category in retail.

Importers and retailers in the US are advised to send a clear message to US governmental officials and politicians:

- **Any new or increased import duties may be a violation of multilateral trade law and agreements that USA have committed to as a member of WTO.**
- **Increased import duties may lead to more expensive seafood products and reduced seafood consumption, thus having a negative impact on US public health.**