

MPEDA participated in Seafood Expo North America 2019



A view of the India Pavilion at SENA 2019

The United States of America is the world's largest importer of fish and fishery products by value in 2018. US fish and fishery products imports have increased in the last 10 years to reach a total value of USD 23.52 billion in 2018. According to NOAA, over 90% of the seafood consumed in the United States of America is imported. The main imported items are shrimp, salmon, crab and white fish.

Global fish production is estimated to have increased by 2.1 percent to a total of 178.8 million tons in 2018. The aquaculture sector continues to power global seafood production growth, with expected production increases for most of the major aquacultured species amounting to an overall increase of four percent in 2018. Capture fisheries production increased only marginally year-on-year, with good anchoveta catches offset by extremely tight supply of cephalopods and lower catches of mackerel and multiple ground fish species. Another year of moderate but positive economic growth continues to drive increases in fish consumption worldwide, with

an average of 20.7 kg of fish estimated to have been consumed per person in 2018.

U.S. per capita seafood consumption increased by 1.1 pounds to 16 pounds in 2017, reaching the 16-pound mark for the first time in almost 10 years as per the report of the National Marine Fisheries Service. Americans are enjoying a greater variety of seafood. While shrimp, salmon and tuna continue to be America's favorite fish and shellfish, the top ten species listed by National Fisheries Institute viz. Shrimp, Salmon, Tuna, Tilapia, Pollock, Pangasius, Cod, Crab, Catfish and Clam makes upto 85 percent of the 16 pounds consumed.

Last year was marked by rising trade tensions between China and the United States of America and multiple other sources of economic uncertainty, including the "Brexit" negotiations between the EU28 and the United Kingdom, which could have significant implications for the seafood industry. Nevertheless, global seafood trade is estimated to have expanded some 7 percent

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in USD terms in 2018, helped firstly by a weaker US dollar but also by high fish prices worldwide.

India is once again the top country of origin for shrimp entering the United States. India outpaced Indonesia, Thailand, and Ecuador to take the title for most shrimp exports to the U.S. for the fourth straight year.

Thirty-two percent of all shrimp imported into the U.S. came from India, and India continues to build market share, as it realized a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 25.2 percent between 2014 and 2017, outpacing total U.S. shrimp demand CAGR growth of 7.1 percent. India achieved the milestone of becoming the first country to top 500 million pounds of shrimp imported to the United States in a calendar year, importing 546.872 million pounds, or 248,127 MT, in

2018. Indonesia tallied 132,344 MT of shrimp exports to the U.S. in 2018, ranking it second overall in 2018, followed by Ecuador with 75,891 MT. Indonesia exported 118,057 MT of shrimp to the U.S. in 2017, while Ecuador totaled 71,788 MT. Its higher total in 2018 moved it past Thailand in the rankings, as the Southeast Asian country saw a decline in its shrimp exports to the U.S. from 74,523 MT in 2017 to 49,703 MT in 2018.

Vietnam also moved past Thailand, with 58,383 MT of shrimp exports to the U.S., good enough for fourth place. China moved up as well, with 50,824 MT of shrimp exports to the U.S. Mexico, Argentina and Guyana, – seventh, eighth, and tenth, respectively in the rankings – all saw slight dips in their production in 2018. Peru, in ninth place, recorded an uptick from 9,950 MT in 2017 to 10,532 MT in 2018.

Table 1. US Imports of Shrimp (All Types) by Country in 2018 with comparisons

Rank	Exporter	Jan – Dec 2018	Jan – Dec 2017	Difference	Growth%
1	India	248,127	213,981	+ 34,146	+ 15.96
2	Indonesia	132,344	118,057	+ 14,287	+ 12.10
3	Ecuador	75,891	71,788	+ 4,103	+ 5.72
4	Vietnam	58,383	55,784	+ 2,599	+ 4.66
5	China	50,824	45,961	+ 4,863	+ 10.58
6	Thailand	49,703	74,523	- 24,820	- 33.31
7	Mexico	24,884	28,539	- 3,655	- 12.81
8	Argentina	11,033	12,552	- 1,519	- 12.10
9	Peru	10,532	9,950	+ 582	+ 5.85
10	Guyana	7,006	9,289	- 2,283	- 24.58
Rest of the World		26,996	23,685	+ 3,311	+ 13.98
US Shrimp Import		695,723	664,109	+ 31,614	+ 4.76

Source: NOAA's Office of Science and Technology



A view of the exhibition

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Table 2 shows comparative statistics on the leading top ten exporting countries of fish and fishery products worldwide during 2016, 2017 and 2018. China always ranks first in export of fish and fishery products. During

2018, China exported about 21.54 billion US \$ worth fish and fishery products to various countries. India ranks fourth and exported 6.77 billion US \$ worth fish and fishery products in 2018.

Table 2. Top ten Exporters of Fish and Fishery Products in the World

Rank	Country	Exported value in 2016	Exported value in 2017	Exported value in 2018
1	China	19,998.78	20,407.98	21,545.46
2	Norway	10,562.04	11,087.77	11,737.17
3	Viet Nam	7,036.02	8,214.97	7,678.47
4	India	5,500.70	7,059.98	6,775.42
5	Chile	4,738.86	5,584.21	6,285.21
6	Thailand	5,604.26	5,854.46	5,813.88
7	USA	5,416.74	5,760.89	5,628.43
8	Netherlands	4,657.28	5,114.73	5,538.68
9	Canada	5,008.09	5,307.91	5,382.79
10	Spain	4,043.63	4,636.67	5,074.55
Rest of the World		63,484.599	69,235.81	73,950.49
Total World Export		136,051.01	148,265.37	155,410.56

Source: ITC Trade statistics based on US census bureau statistics

Table 3 shows rank-wise statistics on the leading top ten exporting countries of fish and fishery products worldwide during 2016, 2017 and 2018. USA always

ranks one in import of fish and fishery products. During 2018, USA imported about USD 23.50 billion worth fish and fishery products from various countries.

Table 3. Top Ten Importers of Fish and Fishery Products in the World

Rank	Country	Imported value in 2016	Imported value in 2017	Imported value in 2018
1	USA	20,317.11	22,462.64	23,500.18
2	Japan	13,593.30	14,710.06	15,030.02
3	China	7,088.06	8,297.07	11,921.05
4	Spain	7,124.64	8,026.13	8,586.87
5	Italy	6,140.69	6,548.20	6,984.76
6	France	6,112.61	6,663.49	6,898.08
7	Germany	5,687.14	6,071.60	6,082.65
8	Korea	4,502.41	4,984.49	5,794.05
9	Sweden	5,165.93	4,925.50	5,592.96
10	Netherlands	3,711.39	4,186.15	4,421.56
Rest of the World		49,810.12	53,947.55	58,682.59
Total World Import		129,253.40	140,822.88	153,494.77

Source: ITC Trade statistics based on US census bureau statistics

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During 2018, Canada is the top most exporters of seafood into the US market. Followed by China and India, occupy second and third place respectively. India rank no. 3 with supply of 2.43 billion worth seafoods in

to US market with 10.37% in terms of value during 2018.

Rank-wise, Item-wise export of marine products into USA during 2018 is given below in Table 4.

Table 4. Top seafood suppliers to USA during 2018 in value terms under Chapters 03 and 1604 and 1605 (Value in US\$ million)

Rank	Country	Chapter 03	Chapter 1604	Chapter 1605	Total	% of supply
1	Canada	2,881.81	91.26	284.46	3,257.53	13.86
2	China	2,103.93	303.12	596.79	3,003.84	12.78
3	India	2,137.99	17.06	281.28	2,436.33	10.37
4	Chile	2,181.59	26.15	45.84	2,253.58	9.59
5	Indonesia	1,275.57	54.11	663.58	1,993.26	8.48
6	Viet Nam	1,074.92	110.77	438.96	1,624.65	6.91
7	Thailand	330.74	585.33	361.13	1,277.20	5.43
8	Norway	951.34	1.64	0.45	953.43	4.06
9	Ecuador	668.39	150.72	22.37	841.48	3.58
10	Mexico	552.19	25.58	52.35	630.12	2.68
Rest of the World		4,366.08	511.88	350.81	5,228.76	22.25
Total US Import		18,524.55	1,877.62	3,098.02	23,500.18	

Source: ITC Trade statistics based on US census bureau statistics



Mr. B. Sreekumar, Secretary, MPEDA and Mr. John Kingsly IAS, Resident Director, MPEDA TPO, New York interact with visitors in MPEDA stall

India ranked third in export of fish and fishery products in to USA. A detailed chapter data on total import of fish and fishery products by USA in comparison with imports from India into USA and total exports from India given below in table 5.

Indian exports to USA are dominated by frozen shrimp. During 2018, India exported of seafood worth USD 2,436 million to US. The frozen shrimp items are dominated by Vannamei shrimp. The total quantity of shrimp exported in various forms into USA was 2,48,127 MT.

Other major items of exports are chilled pasteurized crab meat, frozen grouper, frozen mahi mahi, frozen squid and frozen cuttlefish items. USA imports about 10.37% of fish and fishery products from India and the same is about 35.96% of total fish and fishery products exported from India in terms of value during 2018.

It may be seen from the above data that India supplied about 46% of its total shrimps into USA which account about 28% of shrimps imported by USA in terms of value during 2018. India is the largest shrimp supplier for

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Table 5. Data on total import of fish and fishery products by USA in comparison with imports from India into USA and total exports from India

HS Code	USA's Imports from World			USA's Imports from India (% of Imports from India)			India's Exports to World (% of Exports to USA)		
	Value in 2016	Value in 2017	Value in 2018	Value in 2016	Value in 2017	Value in 2018	Value in 2016	Value in 2017	Value in 2018
0301	76.82	79.09	84.74	0.02 (0.03 %)	0.03 (0.04 %)	0.01 (0.01 %)	1.26 (1.90 %)	2.00 (2.37 %)	1.62 (0.68 %)
0302	1,962.53	2,104.92	2,272.08	0.34 (0.02 %)	0.49 (0.02 %)	1.21 (0.05 %)	78.24 (0.43 %)	51.73 (0.63 %)	47.10 (1.33 %)
0303	676.32	693.43	762.44	10.59 (1.57 %)	9.31 (1.34 %)	9.29 (1.22 %)	629.50 (1.68 %)	735.24 (1.48 %)	700.15 (1.33 %)
0304	5,633.60	6,132.33	6,698.75	9.14 (0.16 %)	14.51 (0.24 %)	19.38 (0.29 %)	159.26 (5.74 %)	225.72 (9.11 %)	269.41 (7.19 %)
0305	305.00	306.68	276.84	0.16 (0.05 %)	0.14 (0.05 %)	0.17 (0.06 %)	70.52 (0.23 %)	69.79 (0.20 %)	92.54 (0.19 %)
0306	6,721.76	7,533.65	7,341.24	1,442.10 (21.45 %)	2,037.54 (27.05 %)	2,057.89 (28.03 %)	3,595.37 (40.11 %)	4,767.94 (56.67 %)	4,469.78 (46.04 %)
0307	948.68	998.20	1,044.21	27.45 (2.89 %)	39.43 (3.95 %)	50.04 (4.79 %)	674.52 (4.07 %)	811.51 (5.85 %)	766.90 (6.52 %)
0308	43.02	52.37	44.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.48 (0 %)	1.14 (0 %)	2.32 (0 %)
1604	1,454.20	1,660.29	1,877.62	13.63 (0.94 %)	16.15 (0.97 %)	17.06 (0.91 %)	37.85 (36.01 %)	39.44 (42.66 %)	42.15 (40.47 %)
1605	2,495.18	2,901.69	3,098.02	131.84 (5.28 %)	239.04 (8.24 %)	281.28 (9.08 %)	253.70 (51.97 %)	355.48 (94.22 %)	383.45 (73.36 %)
TOTAL	20,317.11	22,462.64	23,500.18	1,635.28 (8.05%)	2,356.63 (10.48%)	2,436.33 (10.37%)	5,500.70 (29.73 %)	7,059.98 (33.38 %)	6,775.42 (35.96%)

USA. India supplies every one pound of shrimp out of four pound imported by USA. Most of the value-added products of India exported into USA than any other markets. India exported 40% and 73% of its prepared and processed value added products respectively under chapter 1604 and 1605 into USA, which include mostly blanched and cooked shrimp products.

According to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the seafood industry supported nearly 1.2 million jobs and generated USD 144 billion of turnover. US companies export seafood to China for job works. Processors in China custom process and package seafood to meet their customers' specifications before re-exporting it back to where it was originally exported from or to different countries. This system of international seafood processing allows for increased profits for many seafood companies in the United States, because it allows them to focus on their core business as suppliers and utilize outsourcing processing at China (including

cleaning, filleting, and packaging) to reduce labour input cost.

According to industry sources, there are a variety of reasons why seafood processing is a growing industry in China. Among them are low production costs, high recovery rates, and the high quality of finished products. Low labour costs contribute to low production costs since labour is relatively cheap and abundant in China, especially when compared to industrialized countries like the United States. Most of the seafood processing in China is done by hand which results in not only high recovery rates relative to machine processed seafood but also a higher quality finished product. The result is an inexpensive, quality product which sells well in the export market. The same way Indian processors also need to explore job works with US companies for re-export. There is a huge untapped potential exit for India for job works with USA for re-export.

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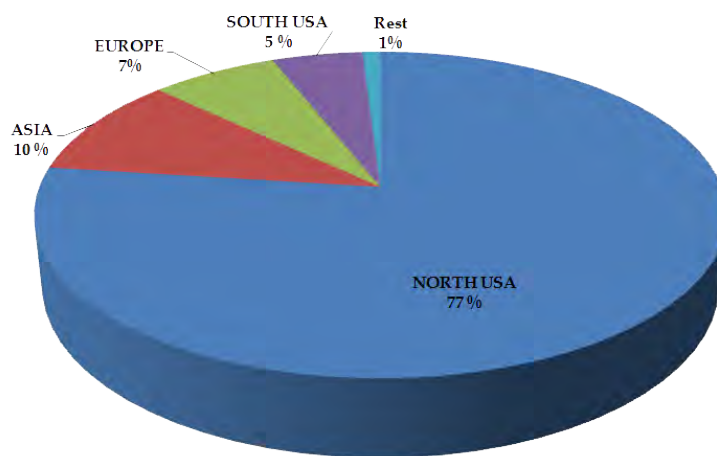
Seafood Expo North America/Seafood Processing North America 2019

Seafood Expo North America/Seafood Processing North America is America's largest seafood exposition. Thousands of buyers and suppliers from around the world attend the annual, three-day exposition to meet, network and do business. Attending buyers represent importers, exporters, wholesalers, restaurants, supermarkets, hotels, and other retail and foodservice companies. Exhibiting suppliers offer the newest seafood products, processing and packaging equipment, and services available in the seafood market. The exposition is sponsored by the National Fisheries Institute.

Seafood Expo North America is an instrumental for business promotional and networking success for seafood export into USA. More than 90 percent of seafood consumed in the U.S. is imported, making Seafood Expo North America a sizable sales opportunity for suppliers from everywhere to bring their products to buyers from restaurants, supermarkets, catering firms, seafood markets, hotels, airlines, cruise lines and more. By walking along the exhibit floor, one can see, hear, and feel the pulse of the seafood industry. Through in-person conversations and meetings, as well as in the structured conference programme, visitors get a clear sense of the trends and engage in productive conversations about emerging challenges.

The value of attending is more than just transactional. It is also an occasion for industry influencers to connect in person on issues ranging from consumer trends to best business practices to public policy considerations. These discussions take place both formally and informally on the exhibit floor, at special events, and in the information-packed conference. Visitors have the benefit of sampling a variety of products and discovering the latest innovations in seafood. More than 22,150 seafood industry professionals from around the world convened in Boston from 17-19, March 2019 for Seafood Expo North America/Seafood Processing North America, America's largest seafood trade event. The expo drew 1,329 exhibitors from 49 countries and spanned 2,56,690 net square feet of exhibit space.

In addition, Seafood Expo North America's Key Buyer programme attracts more than 550 Key Buyers to the exposition. Key Buyers include high-volume seafood purchasers in multi-unit retail and foodservice establishments. Attendees include owners, proprietors, executive purchasing managers, category managers, private label programme buyers and equipment and packaging buyers from retail, foodservice, and other business categories such as Airline, Bar/club, Cruise line, Distributor, Fast food, Government/military, Grocery, High-volume catering, Hospital, Hotel, Import/export, Manufacturer, Processor, Resort, Restaurant, School, Supermarket, Wholesale etc.



Geographic Breakdown of Attendees of SENA 2019

An overview of stalls at SENA 2019

The India pavilion was put up in booth no. 2833 by MPEDA with the assistance of the Trade Promotion Office, New York. This year, MPEDA took a space of 2200 sq. ft. (20 ft width and 110 ft length). India pavilion

arranged with 22 booths having 100 sq. Ft. each for co-exhibitors. Out of that, 16 booths occupied by 14 co-exhibitors to exhibit their products and publicity materials. Andhra Pradesh pavilion created with 4 booths to provide space for 14 co-exhibitors from Andhra Pradesh to interact with their buyers. All the

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Team of officials, MPEDA alongwith co-exhibitors in the Indian Pavilion

co-exhibitors appreciated MPEDA for the design and arrangements made in India pavilion.

The team led by Mr. K. S. Srinivas IAS, Chairman comprising of Mr. John Kingsly IAS, Resident Director, Trade Promotion Office, New York; Mr. B. Sreekumar, Secretary and Mr. S. Asok Kumar, Deputy Director have organized the Indian Pavilion and MPEDA's participation in Seafood Expo North America 2019 held at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Centre.

MPEDA stall accommodated covering two booths having 200 sq. ft area. MPEDA theme for exhibition was value-added products and shrimp, sustainability, diversification. Various value added chilled and frozen and dried seafood samples were arranged through MPEDA Regional and Sub Regional Divisions, air freighted through Regional Division, Mumbai and displayed in display freezer and chiller at MPEDA stall. Various publicity materials like the exporter's directory in CD, co-exhibitor guide, pamphlets, product catalogue and commercial fish chart were also displayed and distributed among buyers.

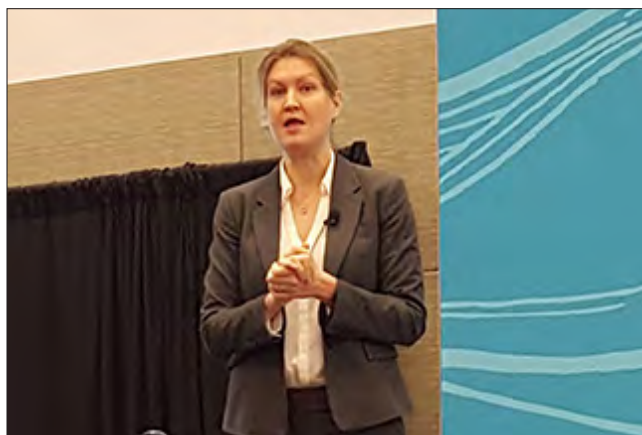
Deputed officers attended various queries raised by visitors on availability and seasonality of various fish and fishery products from India. Trade enquiries received from buyers of different countries visited MPEDA stall were published in the session concerned of previous issue of this Newsletter.

28 exporters have participated as Co-exhibitors along with MPEDA in the India Pavilion set up by MPEDA in the Expo. Of these 14 leading exporters from Andhra

Pradesh has set up a 400 sq. ft. Andhra Pradesh pavilion showcasing the highlights of seafood from the state, especially shrimps. In addition to thousands of exhibit booths stocked with products, solutions, and samples, the SENA 2019 experience included an array of special events too.

Keynote presentation

The schedule of events kicked off Sunday morning with a keynote by Dr. Lindsey Piegza, Chief Economist at Stifel Fixed Income. Dr. Piegza presented an economic update covering the pace of our current recovery and what it means for future growth, interest rates, and monetary policy. She warned that current data on consumer spending and the marketplace point to a greater than 50 percent chance that a recession sets in by 2020. She covered macro-economic consumer behavior trends and the potential economic effects



Dr. Lindsey Piegza delivering keynote address at SENA 2019

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of new Federal Reserve policy initiatives. She further added that people likely curtail the amount they go out to eat or spend on premium products. That means that companies will have to find efficiencies to keep products in the price range of consumers with lower spending power.

Ms. Piegza said as consumption goes down, and people are unable to afford those higher-cost products, it's going to be up to industry insiders to lower costs. Like any industry, it's going to be a struggle to find efficiencies, including new technologies for processing and distribution in order to keep costs affordable for everyday consumers.

Conference programme

Seafood Expo North America also included an educational conference programme and numerous social events and networking opportunities. The 2019 conference programme featured 26 educational sessions, presented by top industry experts. Attendees were provided informative, engaging and practical information covering the most important and timely issues relevant to today's seafood business environment. Conference programme focused on the topics like aquaculture, Corporate Social Responsibility, food safety and policy, seafood business and leadership, seafood sustainability and traceability and transparency.

The key presentations made during the conference programme included

- Social Responsibility on Fishing Vessels: A Template for Ensuring Market Access
- How to Build a Rock Star Consumer Brand
- Delivering on Seafood Traceability under the US SIMP
- Seafood Financing: Challenges and Opportunities for the Year Ahead
- What Consumers Want: The Future of Sustainable Seafood
- U.S. Government Policies Regarding Imported Seafood
- Updates on Seafood HACCP and the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act
- Innovation and Diversification in Asian Aquaculture
- Social Sustainability in Fisheries Value Chains
- Building Equity into Sustainable Seafood Sourcing



(L to R) Mr. B. Sreekumar, Secretary, Mr. K. S. Srinivas IAS, Chairman, Mr. John Kingsly IAS, Resident Director, TPO, New York, Mr. S. Asok Kumar, Deputy Director, MPEDA in Indian pavilion

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Sponsored presentations

A series of three free sponsored presentations took place on March 18 and 19 in the conference area. On 18th March 2019, two sponsored presentations were made: First one on 'A leap forward for traceability', sponsored by the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability, and second on 'Aquaculture sustainability utilizing ROVs to ensure best practice', sponsored by Deep Trekker. On March 19, the sponsored series concluded with

sustainability focused session, sponsored by Thai Union and titled 'Ocean Plastic Pollution: From the Garbage Patch to your Plate'.

Live Chef Demonstrations

On a tastier note, a line-up of renowned chefs conducted culinary demonstrations on March 17 and 18, in the Demonstration Theatre located in the exhibit hall. The Chef Demonstrations included

- The Great Scottish Seafood Cook-Off, presented by Chef Mark Greenaway, Restaurant Mark Greenaway & Patrick Keefe, Culinary Director, Legal Seafoods; Sponsored by Seafood from Scotland;
- Galician Seafood, "Our Sea, A Brand," presented by Chef Alvaro Villasante of Paprica Restaurant; Sponsored by Conselleria do Mar – Xunta de Galicia;
- Argentina's Wild Seafood, Taste the Most Southern Ocean, featuring Chef Christopher Walker, Culinary Instructor at Newbury College; Sponsored by Argentina; and
- Algae-fed Salmon Takes Center Plate: Chef Sammy Monsour's Sustainable Seafood Journey, presented by Chef Sammy Monsour of Preux & Proper; Sponsored by Corbion.



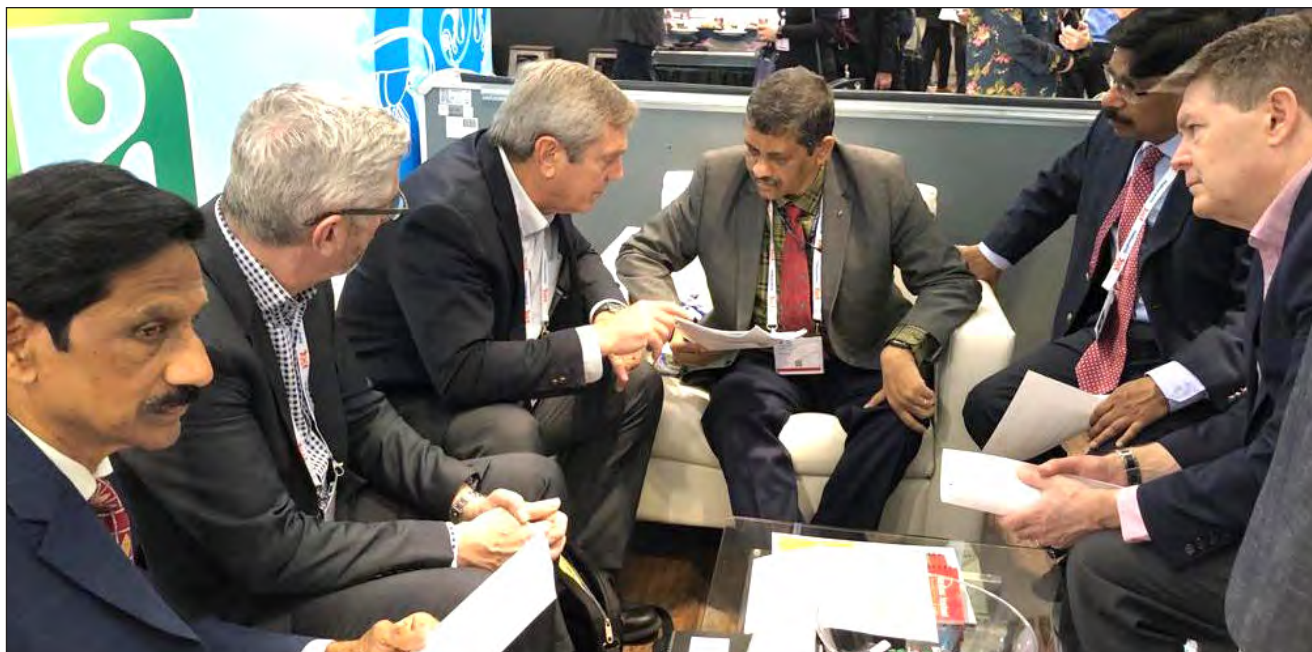
View of live Chef demonstration at Demonstration Theatre

New product showcase

Discovering new products is one of the key reasons for the buyers to attend Seafood Expo North America. New product showcase make it easier for thousands of buyers and media to find new products on the exhibition floor. To display in New Product Showcase,

products must have been introduced to the market within 18 months of the event. Those products entered in the previous year or listed in the previous year expo will not qualify to enter. All products entered into the New Product Showcase are automatically entered in the Seafood Excellence Awards competition. Products entered must be edible in order to participate in the

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Mr. K. S. Srinivas IAS, Chairman, MPEDA interacts with the visitors in the Indian Pavilion, flanked by Mr. B. Sreekumar, Secretary, MPEDA and Mr. V. Padmanabham, President, SEAI

Seafood Excellence Awards competition. This year about 59 new products were displayed at new product showcase. From these 59 new products, 12 new products selected as finalists for Seafood Excellence Awards competition.

Featured product showcase

Featured product showcase is very good product branding opportunity to promote products. Seafood Expo North America provides a unique space for seafood processing companies to introduce their best products at the event regardless of the product's introduction date. Featured products are designed to highlight and give an exhibitor the opportunity to promote their finest products to potential buyers. Featured Products will not be eligible to enter in the Seafood Excellence Awards competition. This year, about 18 products were displayed at featured product showcase.

Seafood Excellence Awards

The 2019 Seafood Excellence Awards winners were announced on March 17 at Seafood Expo North America/Seafood Processing North America, Boston. The Seafood Excellence Awards recognises and celebrates the best new seafood products in the North American seafood market. The new

products were judged on the basis of several criteria, including uniqueness and appropriateness to the market, taste profile, market potential, convenience, nutritional value and originality. Contestants competed in two prestigious award categories: Best New Retail Product and Best New Foodservice Product.

Winners were selected from a group of 12 finalists during a live judging on March 17 by a panel of seafood buyers and industry experts from the retail and foodservice industries. This year's judges included Mr. Ben Newlin, Senior Culinary Operations Specialist, The Cheesecake Factory; Mr. Mark Hogan, Director of Center of the Plate, SGC Foodservice; and Ms. Josanna Busby, Category Manager, Seafood, Frozen Meats & Seafood Food Lion, LLC.

Scotland and Miami-based St. James Smokehouse won the "Best New Retail Product" award for its Saint Pure Salmon. Saint Pure Salmon produced with fresh ASC certified sushi grade sustainable smoked salmon. Saint Pure Salmon is non-GMO and free of growth hormones, artificial preservatives, colours or flavours. Salmon fillets were fully trimmed by hand and sliced vertically. Deep skinned, brown meat removed. Then fillets were smoked over a bed of locally sourced orange

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and grapefruit wood from Florida to create a light fruity smoke flavour. It is then allowed to rest after smoking, enabling the sea salt and citrus wood notes to permeate throughout the fillet.

East Coast Seafood won the "Best New Foodservice Product" award for its Lobster Macaroni and Cheese Bites. East Coast Seafood's Lobster Macaroni and Cheese bites are produced without preservatives or artificial flavours, using premium sustainably caught North American lobster meat. These delicious foodservice appetizers are deep fried at restaurant level, offering lobster with a creamy mixture of macaroni and a three-cheese blend (Parmesan, Asiago, Mozzarella), enrobed in a savoury, crunchy golden-brown coating. It is then served with or without a dipping sauce.



*Judging for the Seafood Excellence Awards at
SENA 2019*

Annual Oyster Shucking Competition

On 18th March 2019, the highly-anticipated 13th Annual Oyster Shucking Competition was held at Demonstration Theater at Seafood Expo North

America/Seafood Processing North America, Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. About 20 contestants competed for the title of "Fastest Shucker" in the East.

Oyster shuckers were randomly assigned one Atlantic and one Pacific oyster bags each. Oysters were pre-packaged by the sponsors as six per bag. Oyster shucker has to remove, and arrange the oysters for the contest. At the chief judge's discretion, the oyster shucker may appeal to swap out any oyster considered to be of improper quality for the contest. Extra Oysters for swapping out made available. Oyster shucker need to shuck, all 12 oysters – six East, six West as quickly and cleanly as possible, and present of the designated tray for presentation to the judges. Judges may award a bonus time reduction of up to ten (10) seconds as an award for a tray presentation that is deemed outstanding.

The winner of the 13th Annual Oyster Shucking Competition, held at Seafood Expo North America/Seafood Processing North America, was announced on the same day itself.

Mr. Dan Coll of Union Oyster House competed against 19 other contestants of the event. Mr. Dan Coll was the fastest shucker in this year's competition. He took home the title over second place competitor, Mr. Steve Boreen of Benjamin's Raw Bar by less than 5 seconds. Mr. Coll won the USD 700 prize for shucking a dozen oysters in an adjusted time of 1 minute, 31 seconds.

Mr. Charles Larkin of Mystic Oysters secured third place while Mr. William Chopper of Chopper's Choice Oysters and Mr. Ben Morgan of Native Cape Cod Shellfish came in fourth and fifth place respectively. This year's competition was judged by Chef Charlotte Langley (MSC Brand Ambassador), Joseph Chiaravallotti (Seacore Seafood), and Alison McMurray (Starfish/Ceili Cottage).

Next year, Seafood Expo North America/Seafood Processing North America 2020 will be held from 15-17, March 2020 at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Centre itself.

