

FDA Will Delay a Decision Pending Comprehensive Study

WASHINGTON – Congressman Jo Bonner, R-AL, welcomed a decision by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Friday not to implement post-harvest processing requirements for Gulf oysters pending the outcome of a comprehensive study.

“I applaud the FDA’s decision to delay their requirements for post-harvest processing of Gulf oysters in order to gain additional information about methods to improve the safety of oysters,” Congressman Bonner said.

“Clearly, the FDA listened to lawmakers and the Gulf Coast oyster community in their evaluation of whether or not to proceed with the implementation of a drastic new requirement that would have had a devastating impact on the local oyster industry.

“From the beginning, the Gulf oyster community has tried to work with the FDA to accommodate a reasonable standard for safety. However, the FDA’s unilateral intention to impose a new requirement that would have been practically impossible to meet, defied all sense of fairness.

“I believe the FDA’s new decision to delay a new requirement for oysters until after a comprehensive study can be completed is an acceptable and reasonable response. I encourage the FDA to work with the Gulf Coast oyster community to explore ways and new cost-effective technologies to ensure safety without threatening the livelihood of the local oyster industry.”