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Page: 1/1

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**DECISION DECLARING THE TERRITORY OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES
TO BE A ZONE FREE FROM TAURA SYNDROME IN FARMED SHRIMP**

COMMUNICATION FROM MEXICO

The following communication, received on 28 November 2023, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Mexico.

1. Pursuant to Article 6 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, which refers to regional conditions, including pest- or disease-free areas and areas of low pest or disease prevalence, and in keeping with the principle of transparency, we hereby notify the "*Decision declaring the territory of the United Mexican States to be a zone free from Taura syndrome in farmed shrimp*", published in the Official Journal on 28 September 2023, with entry into force on 29 September 2023.

2. The territory of the United Mexican States has been declared free from Taura syndrome in farmed shrimp. In order to ensure that the territory of the United Mexican States remains free from Taura syndrome, sanitary measures pertaining to epidemiological surveillance, prevention, diagnosis, traceability, movement control, transport, transit, marketing and importation in respect of farmed shrimp and farmed shrimp products and by-products will continue to be observed, in accordance with Articles 112, 114 and 116 of the General Law on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, and other applicable legal provisions.

3. The authority responsible for the Decision is the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER), acting through the National Agri-Food Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA).

4. Section 9, Chapter 9.7, Article 9.7.5(3) of the WOA Aquatic Animal Health Code provides that a member country can make a self-declaration of freedom from infection with the Taura syndrome virus for its entire territory if it can demonstrate that targeted surveillance has been in place for at least the last two years without detection of the Taura syndrome virus.

5. The declaration that the country is free from the Taura syndrome virus facilitates the marketing of farmed shrimp and farmed shrimp products and by-products originating in the United Mexican States.

6. WTO Members are hereby informed of the Decision as a reference for commercial dealings involving farmed shrimp and farmed shrimp products and by-products originating in the United Mexican States.

7. This communication is being submitted for purposes of transparency and in order to provide Members with further information on the current regulatory process in Mexico.

8. The document is available at:

https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5703235&fecha=28/09/2023#gsc.tab=0.
