

# Group pressures US government to ban Chinese seafood factory over forced labor accusations

The US government has included seafood as a 'new high-priority' sector for enforcement this year.



A US shrimp group wants another Chinese processor added to the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act Entity List. (Photo: Shutterstock)

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US wild shrimp association the Southern Shrimp Alliance (SSA) continues to petition the US government to add a Chinese processor to the list of companies prohibited to ship product to the United States because of the processor's alleged use of forced labor.

On Monday the SSA submitted a petition to the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to add Rongcheng Sanyue Foodstuff Co. to its Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act Entity List, which includes entities in China's Xinjiang region that mine, produce or manufacture goods with forced labor.

The US government agency [in June added Shandong Meijia Group Co., Ltd.](#), also known as Rizhao Meijia Group, to the list following the SSA's request for the seafood processor, along with Rongcheng Sanyue Foodstuff Co., to be included.

The SSA said Monday it was renewing its request for Rongcheng Sanyue to be added "because publicly-available information indicates that the company has refused to allow US government officials access to its facilities in China but nevertheless has continued to export Argentine red shrimp to the US market."

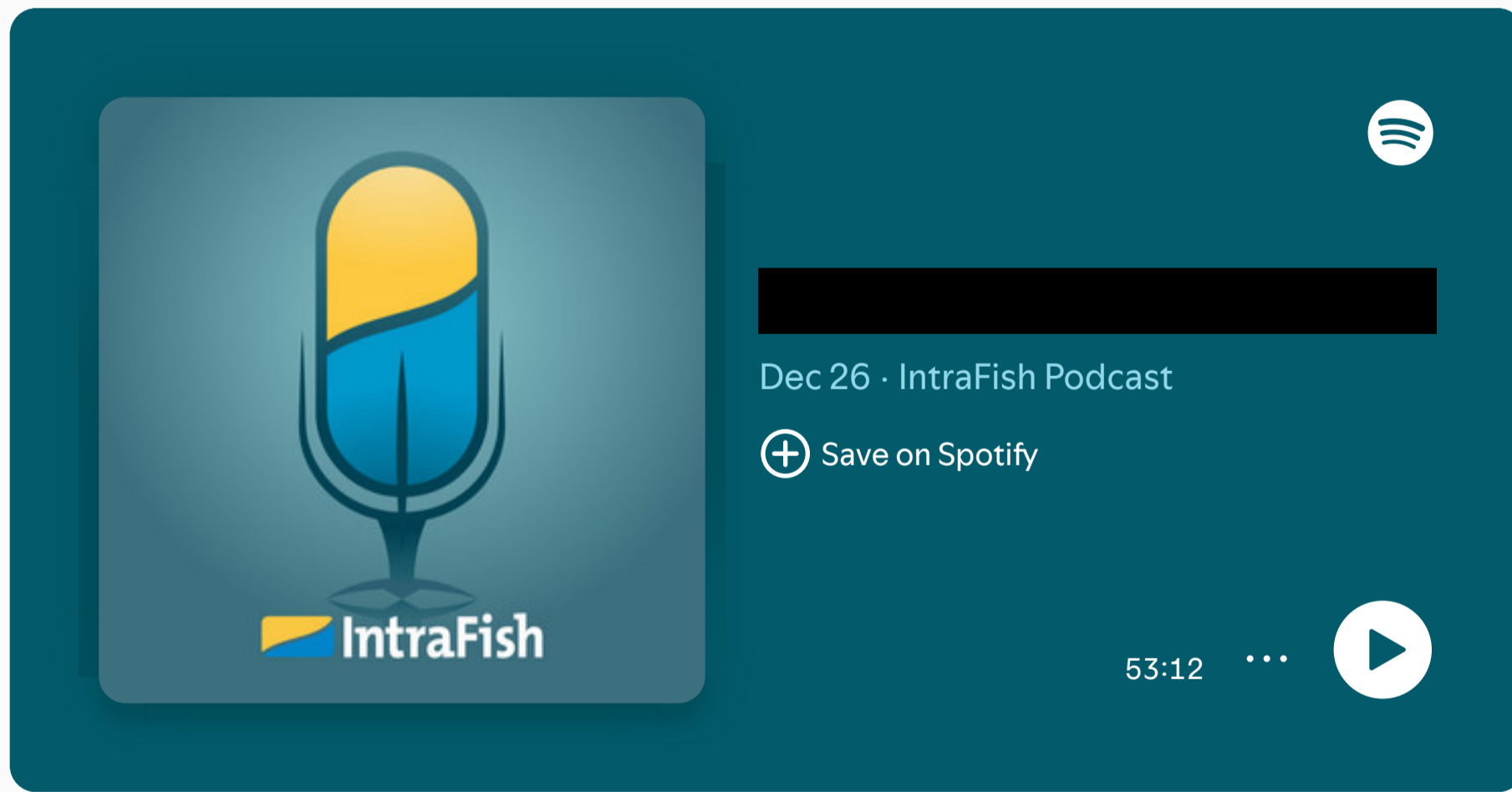
In January, [the SSA](#) and a group of processors asked the US government for more scrutiny of Chinese seafood processors allegedly exporting Argentinian red shrimp to the United States without proper documentation.

The SSA said US consumers are provided no indication as to whether the Argentine shrimp being sold in grocery stores was shipped from China, and pointed to information from bills of lading showing some of the shrimp was cycled through China's Shandong province, an area tied to forced labor abuses.

The US government has included seafood as a "[new high-priority](#)" sector for enforcement, citing it is part of industries that "involve a higher risk of forced labor of Uyghurs and members of other persecuted groups."

The US government in particular has cited work by the nonprofit journalism group Outlaw Ocean Project, which documented Uyghur workers in several Shandong seafood plants for its crackdown on seafood. The [investigation](#) by the Outlaw Ocean Project looked at how some seafood imports from China into the United States were produced using forced labor.

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