

U.S. Antidumping on Vietnamese Catfish, Income Shocks and Farm Behavior*

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Abstract

This note explores some of the impacts of the U.S. antidumping policy on Vietnamese catfish on farm outcomes. In 2003, after claims of antidumping, the U.S. imposed tariffs on imports of catfish from Vietnam. This comprised a negative income shock for catfish producers in the Mekong delta. We document this by showing the decline in Vietnamese exports of catfish to the U.S. and the decline in income of catfish producers in Vietnam. We estimate drops in fishing income of 17 percent, in cash income of 32 percent, and in total income of 7 percent. In addition, farms reduced the use of inputs in agriculture (by 28 percent) and the intake of calories (by 12-17 percent). However, school attendance and child labor were not affected. Finally, we used the AD policy as an instrument for cash-income and estimate how household input use in agriculture responds to income. This relationship is positive and linear, with an elasticity close to one.

JEL CODES: to be determined

Key Words: aquaculture, income shocks, household responses

***Super-PRELIMINARY. This is a very rough draft. Please, do not quote. This is a preliminary exploratory note of the impacts of the catfish antidumping.** We thank Quy-Toan Do for comments at early stages of the project and for his help in gathering the Vietnam data. Special thanks go to Matias Horenstein for endless high-quality work with these data.

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