SUMMARY
Tariffs continue to loom over the seafood industry, as it waits to see whether the latest round of US tariffs on Chinese seafood will be implemented at up to a rate of 25%. The industry is in a holding pattern at the moment and a decision is expected in September. At the same time, the catch for various species out of China has been lower than expected, which has led to a push to place orders now for early to mid-2019.

REGIONS
USA
RHODE ISLAND
We expect the Rhode Island catch to resume this month, as it has traditionally in the past.

PREMIUM
The illex illecebrosus season has ended and will reopen next summer. The overall catch this year was plentiful and The Town Dock is positioned for growth within this category in 2019.

SUNSET CATCH
The California squid (loligo opalescens) fishing season runs from April 1st through March 31st the following year, with an annual quota limit of 118,000 MT. The current summer catch in California has been virtually non-existent, but there have been some noteworthy landings reported in Oregon. Typically, the majority of landings come from Southern California and the Monterey Bay area. As of August 17, 2018 the total landings of California squid are 13,352.80 MT

CHINA
TARIFFS
The US will impose either 10% or 25% tariffs on frozen squid out of China. The industry is bracing for 25% tariffs, as the open comment period has already ended. Although there have been high level talks between the governments of China and the US, it is still uncertain whether these tariffs, which would apply to $200 billion worth of goods will be implemented.

FULLY CLEANED/TRADITIONALLY CLEANED
The official Chinese loligo (uroteuthis chinensis) season has opened and the fishing ban reported on previously has ended. Unfortunately, the catch has been poorer than expected. Thus far, pricing is stable; however, it is expected to rise later in the season and suppliers are urging customers to place orders now to ensure there is sufficient raw material for 2019 shipments.

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CHINA  Continued

CLASSIC
There has not been significant improvement in the todarodes catch. A key reason the todarodes catch has been lower than expected this year is that the SST (sea surface temperature) has been higher than expected. At this point in the year, it is expected to be 17-23 degrees Celsius; however, it has been as high as 27 degrees Celsius. This has led to not ideal environmental conditions for todarodes, which is why the catch has been down YOY.

INDIA

CHEF READY
The needle squid season is almost over and the semi-needle squid season is open. Landings are now primarily semi-needle squid with larger loligo duvauceli being caught, as well. Raw material pricing remains stable.

BOMBAY COAST
The loligo duvauceli season on the West Coast of India has begun. Larger sizes are coming in initially, but will get smaller as the season progresses.

PERU

GIANT SQUID STEAKS AND STRIPS
Raw material pricing is significantly higher at the moment due to the lack of fresh, raw material landings. Suppliers that do have raw material on hand have saved it from the prior season. The raw material situation is expected to start improving by the end of September.