



GSO Senate Resolution 23.11

A Resolution Limiting the Purchase of Shrimp, Crab, and Lobster

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Date(s): 26 April 2023 (Voting Date)

Action(s): Passed (25 Yes; 7 No; 2 Abstentions)

Chair of the Senate: Daniel J. Kimmel

President Pro Tempore of the Senate: Vito Iaia

Parliamentarian: Zafar Ali

President of the Student Body: Daniel J. Kimmel (Interim)

Whereas, food choices constitute one of the main ways our institution participates in socio-ecological relations; and,

Whereas, many communities of seafood around the world are threatened due to factors including, *inter alia*, environmental change and overfishing; and,

Whereas, within the United States, many shrimp, crab, and lobster are considered species to avoid by seafood watch groups; and,

Whereas, shrimp farming causes extensive environmental damage, especially through the destruction of mangrove forests, while substantially contributing to global greenhouse gas emissions; and,

Whereas, evaluating socio-ecological justice when it comes to purchasing shrimp is difficult-to-impossible; and,

Whereas, most shrimp consumed in the United States are farmed; and,

Whereas, the sustainability of lobster fisheries is a matter of frequent debate; and,

Whereas, many lobster populations are under severe stress due to present and future climate change; and,

Whereas, only 9% of the global crab catch is at present independently certified to Marine Stewardship Council standards; and,

Whereas, shrimp, crab, and lobster are often some of the most expensive food products; therefore, be it,

Resolved, that GSO Executive Board will not use GSO funds to purchase shrimp, crab, or lobster for events they manage; and be it,

Resolved, that the Finance Committee will discourage, but still reimburse, the purchase of shrimp, crab, or lobster during GSO-funded events, including special programming events; and be it,

Resolved, that, when the 56th Senate session begins (2023-2024 AY), the Climate Action Committee begin reviewing the GSO's catering practices in light of the CAC mandate, recommending standard catering guidelines to the Senate before the end of that session; and be it,

Resolved, that each year the Climate Action Committee similarly review best practices concerning food purchasing within the scope of their charter and include findings as part of their report during each Senate session.