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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
BOSTON REGIONAL OFFICE

101 Merrimac Street
Suite 810
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-4719
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BY FEDERAL EXPRESS

May 16, 1996

William Allen, Jr., President
The Catfish Institute
118 Hayden Street
Belzoni, Mississippi 39038

Dear Mr. Allen:

The Boston Regional Office of the Federal Trade Commission has conducted an investigation to determine whether the Catfish Institute violated the Federal Trade Commission Act by making false and misleading claims as to the fat, calorie, and cholesterol content of farm-raised catfish.

Upon further review of this matter, and based, in part, on your representation that the Catfish Institute will not disseminate any nutrient content claim for farm-raised catfish that is inconsistent with the Federal Trade Commission's Enforcement Policy Statement on Food Advertising, 59 Fed. Reg. 28388 (June 1, 1994), it appears that no further action is warranted by the Commission at this time. Accordingly, the investigation has been closed.

This action is not to be construed as a determination that a violation may not have occurred, just as the pendency of an investigation should not be construed as a determination that a violation has occurred. The Commission reserves the right to take further action as the public interest may require.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Phoebe D. Morse".

Phoebe D. Morse
Regional Director

cc: Stuart Lee Friedel
Davis & Gilbert
1740 Broadway
New York, New York 10019