From: "Cindy Bower" <Cindy.Bower@ars.usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Some initial items of interest for the packaging people
Date: Wed, May 5, 2010 6:44 pm
To: "BOWER@sfos.uaf.edu" <bower@sfos.uaf.edu>

------ Forwarded Message
From: "Pantoja, Alberto" <Alberto.Pantoja@ARS.USDA.GOV>
Date: Wed, 5 May 2010 18:41:16 -0600
To: Len Peterson <petersol@me.com>, "Orts, Bill" <Bill.Orts@ARS.USDA.GOV>, "Glenn, Greg" <Greg.Glenn@ARS.USDA.GOV>
Cc: Heather Hardcastle <wildsalmon@takurr.net>, Kirk Hardcastle <salmongal@mac.com>, <alberto.pantoja@ars.usda.gov>, <Cindy.Bower@ars.usda.gov>, <Peter.Bechtel@ARS.USDA.GOV>
Subject: RE: Some initial items of interest for the packaging people

Len

Thanks for the email and information.

A group of fellows from UAF is working on packaging, but from a different angle. Peter Bechtel is familiar with the work and can expand on it. I believe the name of the UAF scientist is Chuck Crapo. Peter Bechtel is copied this email and he can elaborate on subject or connect with others working on packaging in AK.

alberto

From: Len Peterson [mailto:petersol@me.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 05, 2010 8:25 AM
To: Orts, Bill; Glenn, Greg; Pantoja, Alberto
Cc: Heather Hardcastle; Kirk Hardcastle
Subject: Some initial items of interest for the packaging people

Thank you for meeting with us in Juneau last week. I believe there are many ways you can help the seafood industry ecologically improve and become more efficient. In this email I want to focus upon packaging of our seafood products. I have included three images of very common items used in our shipping of seafood products. First is a 50-pound export box that we normally use for our fresh products. The second image is of a styrofoam peanut used to fill the box when sending frozen product. The peanuts fill voids, provide some insulation, and help prevent shifting of the frozen items. The last image is of standard styrofoam fish boxes we use for sending frozen products to market. We use mostly GF-3s, FB-5s, LD30, LD33, and AS-2.

The problems:

1. Many of these products are styrofoam (peanuts are said to be recycled), we would prefer to use more eco-friendly substances.

2. Replacements must have equal or better insulating values.

3. We must often deliver to shippers in rain, we need a coating that is eco-friendly but will repel water for a few days and then degrade. We have used waxed outers, but tape does not stick to the wax outer. The fresh fish

shipping containers and the outers for the styrofoam boxes are cardboard.

4. Inside the fresh fish boxes we place a foil blanket and then a 4-mil polyethylene bag surrounding the fresh fish. The polyethylene bag is very effective in transit, but I worry about the recycling of the bag, is there a biodegradable alternative that is cost effective and meets airline specifications?

5. We have used recycled AS-2 boxes in the past. We found we had to clean each box and found many with structural damage. Cleaning and repairing made for slow packing. We would like similar-sized boxes from recycled materials that could be reused a few times before reconstituted. The outer cardboard is already 90% or more recycled paper. Again, we would like the cardboard coated a rain-repelling coating that would still accept tape.

6. Lastly we like to band our boxes with 1/2" plastic banding. I suspect, but do not know whether this is recycled plastic. However, I would to know whether there is a biodegradable alternative to the plastic banding.

Thank you for your consideration,

Len Peterson

Taku River Reds

------ End of Forwarded Message

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