

## **TARIFFS ON U.S. TILAPIA IMPORTS: DIRECT REVENUES AND IMPACTS ON PRICES**

### **ABSTRACT**

- This newsletter examines the revenue impacts of tariffs and identifies the types of U.S. tilapia imports.
- It shows the long-term annual U.S. tilapia imports and the major countries of origin of U.S. tilapia imports.
- It also summarizes the calculated duties on tilapia imports per year and their impacts on average import prices.

### **KEYWORDS**

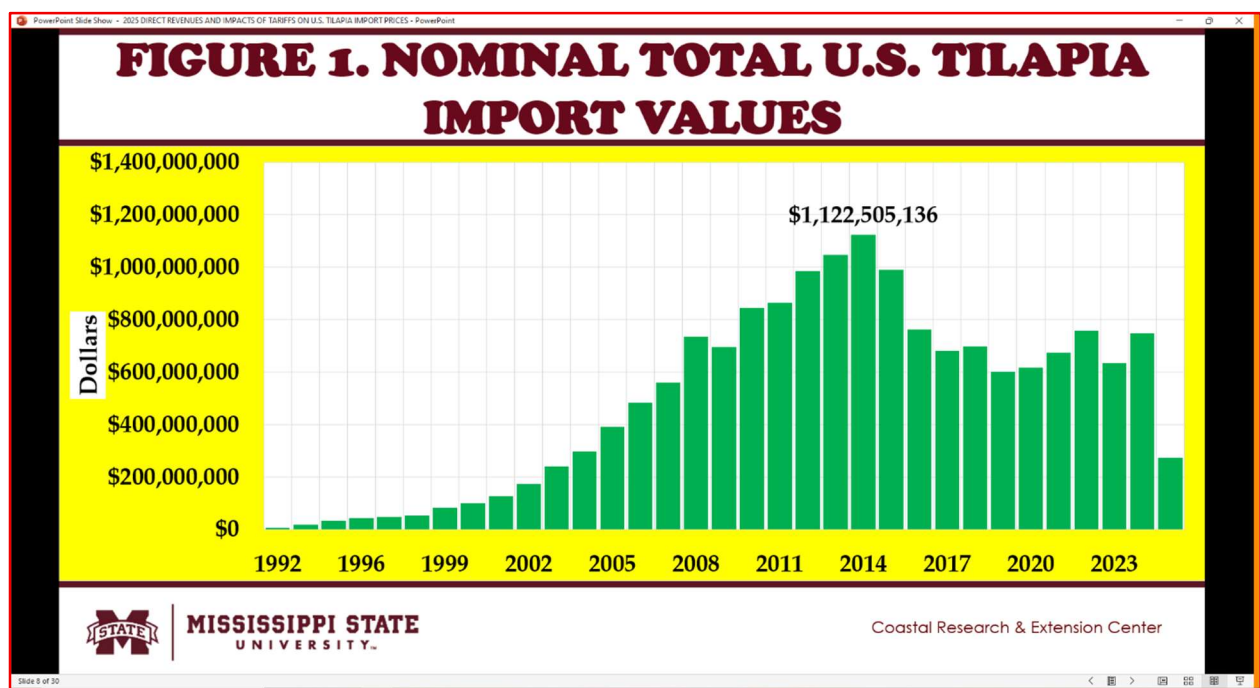
- Tilapia imports, calculated duties, and major countries of origin.

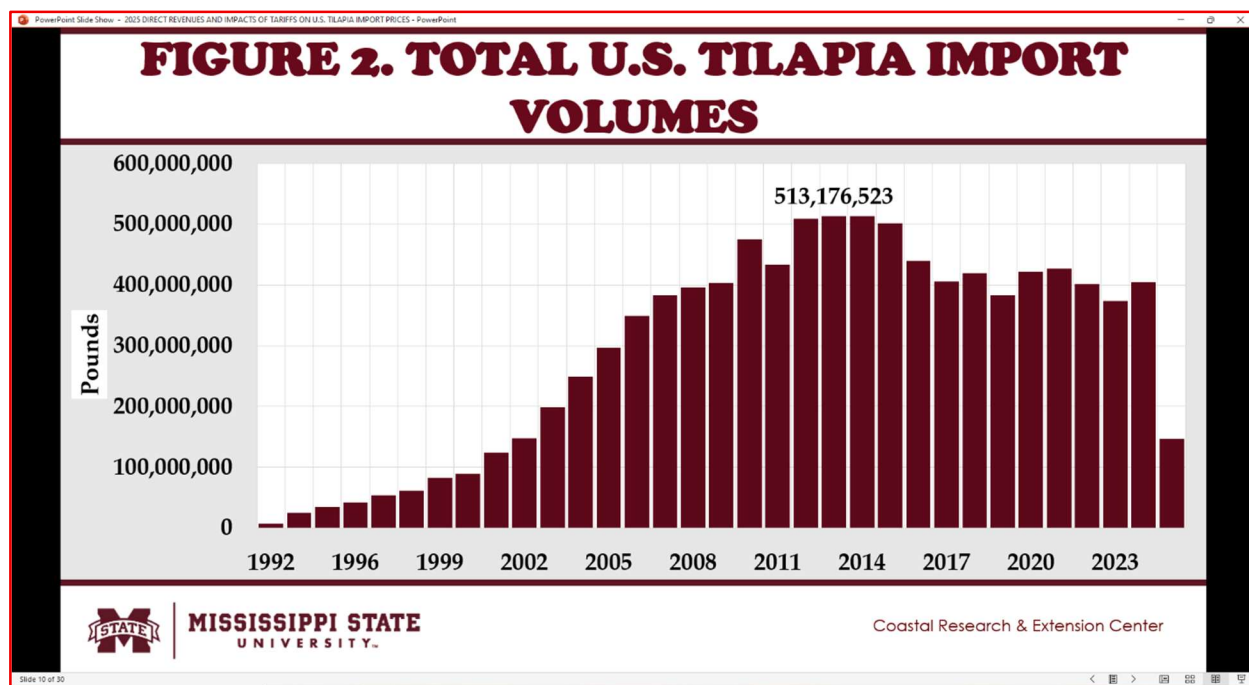
## METHODS

- The direct revenue impacts of U.S. tilapia imports are the sum of the calculated duties imposed on imported tilapia products.
- Annual data on U.S. tilapia imports are compiled from the NOAA Fisheries website from January 1992 to April 2025. <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/foss>.
- The calculated duties on tilapia imports are summarized per year per country of origin.
- An econometric model is estimated to measure the impacts of calculated duties on the prices of imported tilapia products.
- The econometric model of **U.S. Tilapia Import Price** (dollars per pound) assumes that import prices could be explained by:
  - ❖ Year,
  - ❖ Calculated duty (%),
  - ❖ Country of origin (1 or 0),
  - ❖ Other variables.
- The **Ordinary Least Squares** (OLS) model of **U.S. Tilapia Import Price** consists of the following dependent variable:
  - Deflated imputed average import price (dollars per pound).
- The OLS model of U.S. tilapia import price is estimated by using the **robust variance procedure** of STATA-19.
- The **variation inflation factor** is calculated to detect the possible presence of multicollinearity.
- The marginal impacts are computed using the **margins procedure**.

## TOTAL U.S. TILAPIA IMPORT VALUES AND VOLUMES

- Fig. 1 shows the total U.S. tilapia import values since 1992.
- Import values consistently rose from 1992, reaching their peak in 2014 at \$1.12 billion.
- Since the start of the U.S.-China trade war in July 2018, the mean import value has reached \$675 million per year.
- Fig. 2 shows the total U.S. tilapia import volumes since 1992.
- Import values consistently rose from 1992, reaching their peak between 2012 and 2015 at more than 500 million pounds per year.
- Since the start of the U.S.-China trade war in July 2018, the total U.S. import volumes of tilapia have fallen, averaging 400 million pounds per year.

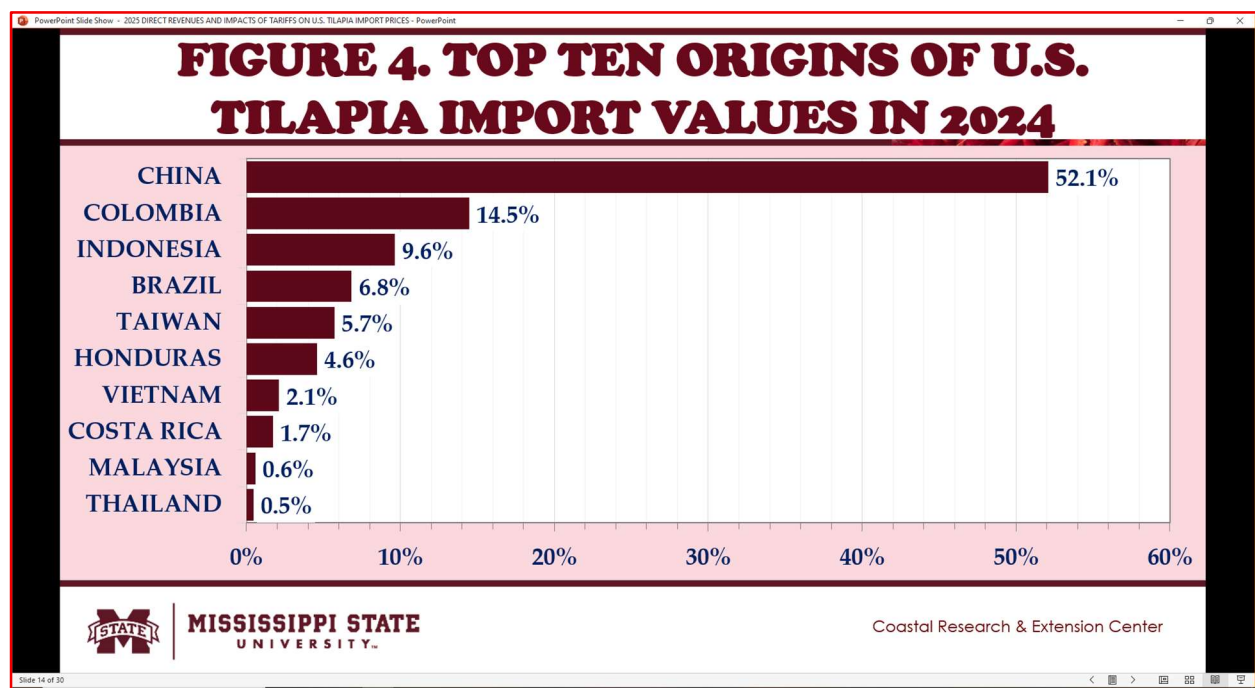
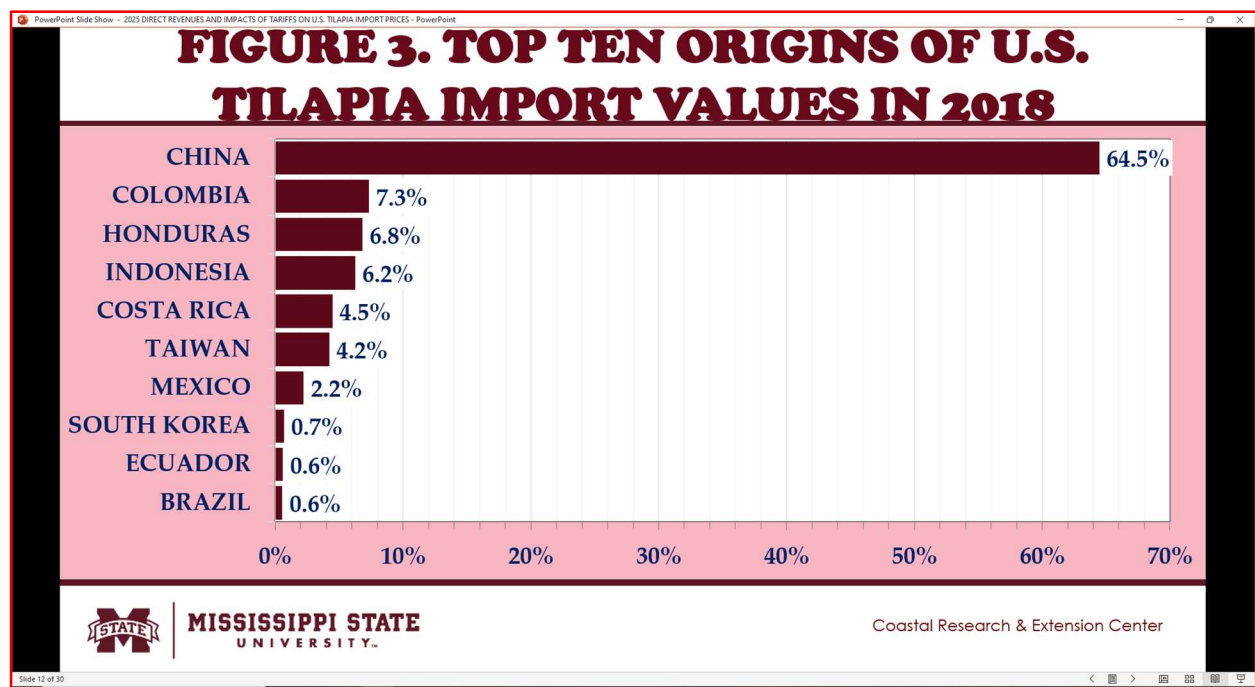




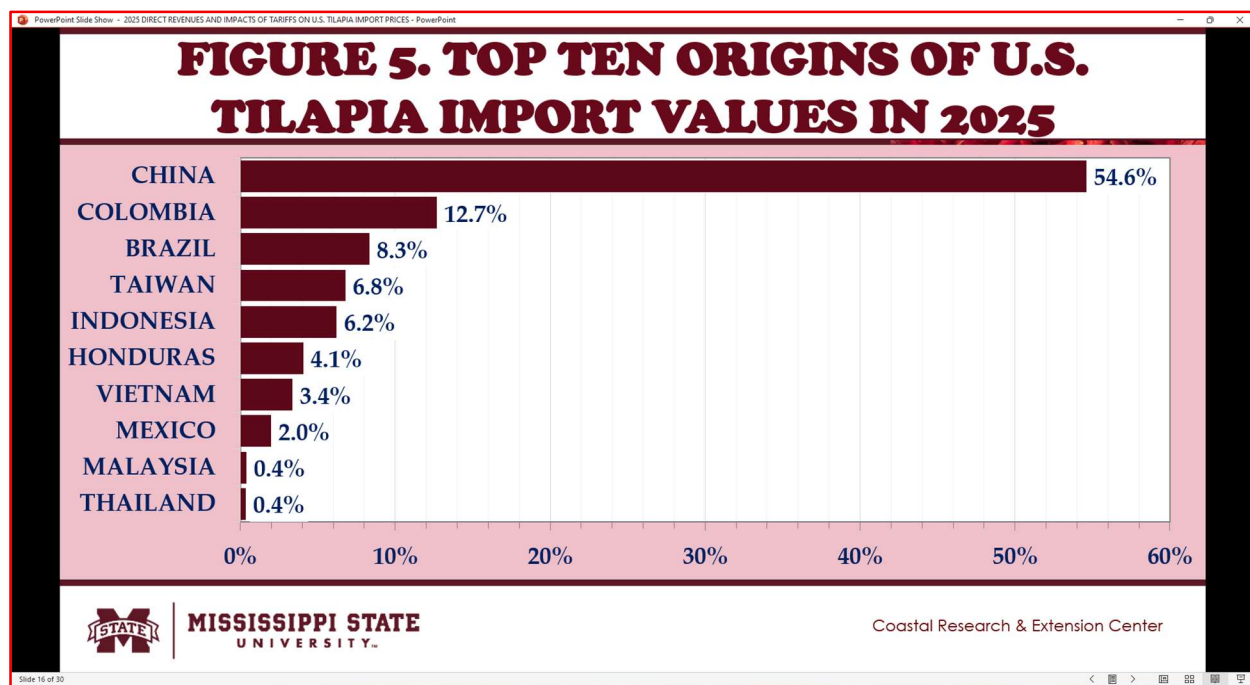
## COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OF U.S. TILAPIA IMPORT VALUES

- Fig. 3 to 5 show the major countries of origin of total U.S. tilapia imports in 2018, 2024, and Jan-Apr 2025.
- China supplied 64.5% of U.S. tilapia imports in 2018.
- The U.S.-China trade war since 2018 reduced China's share to 52.1% in 2024 and 54.6% in 2025.
- Colombia provided 7.3% of U.S. tilapia imports in 2018, 14.5% in 2024, and 12.7% in 2025.
- Honduras sold 6.8% of U.S. tilapia imports in 2018, 4.6% in 2024, and 4.1% in 2025.
- Indonesia shipped 6.2% of U.S. tilapia imports in 2018, 9.6% in 2024, and 6.2% in 2025.
- Costa Rica provided 4.5% of U.S. tilapia imports in 2018, 1.7% in 2024, and a negligible amount in 2025.
- Taiwan's share of U.S. tilapia imports rose from 4.2% in 2018 to 5.7% in 2024 and to 6.8% in 2025.

- Mexico sold 2.2% of U.S. tilapia imports in 2018, a negligible amount in 2024, and 2.0% in 2025.

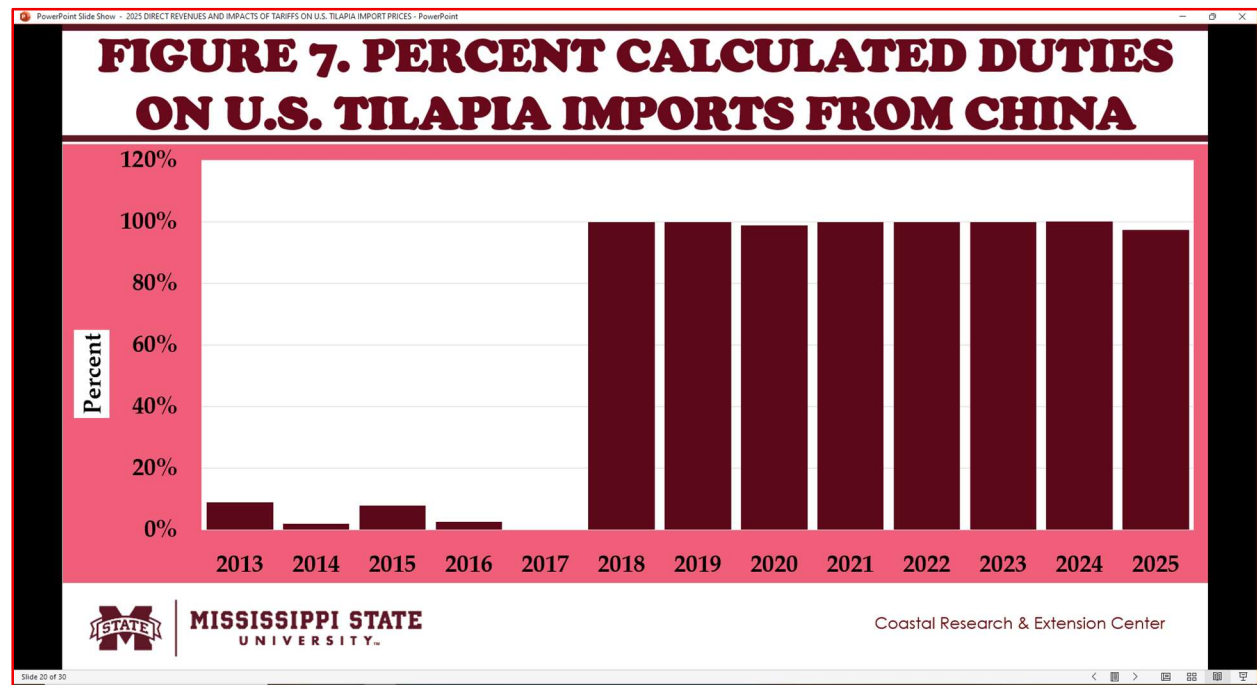
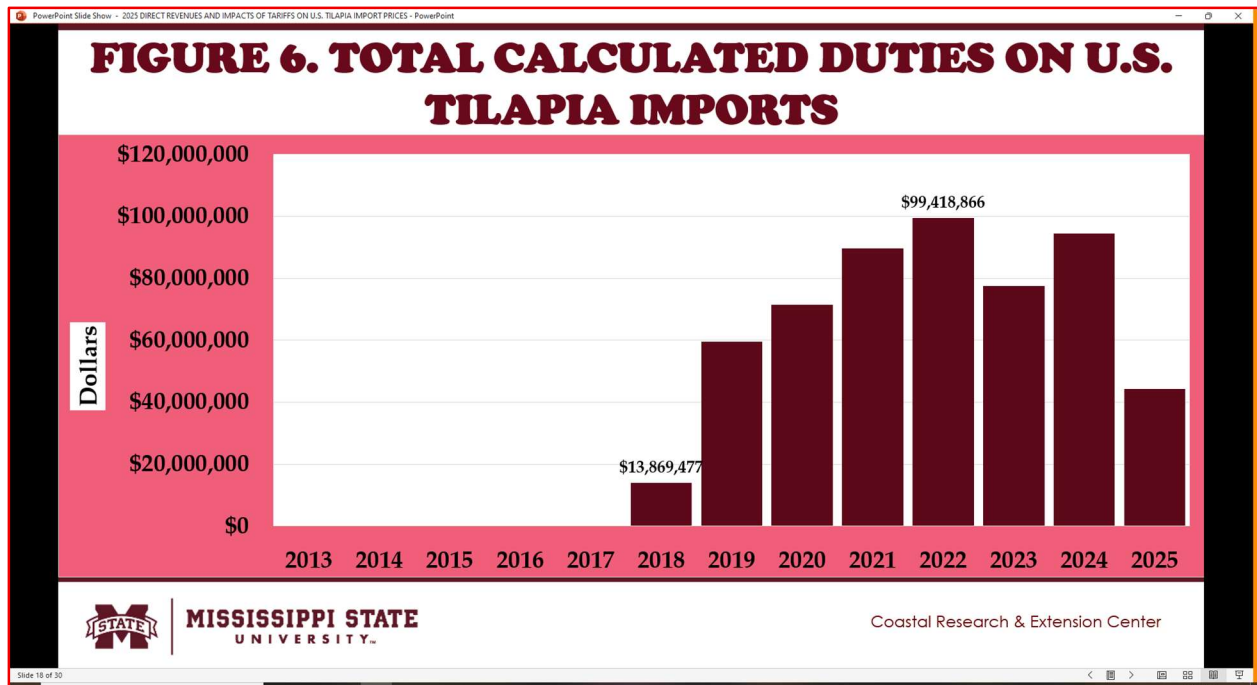


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### CALCULATED DUTIES ON U.S. TILAPIA IMPORTS FROM CHINA

- Fig. 6 shows the calculated duties on the total U.S. tilapia imports since 2013.
- Significant amounts of duties reaching \$13.8 million were collected from U.S. tilapia imports when the U.S.-China trade war started in July 2018 (Fig. 6).
- Total calculated duties reached their peak in 2022 at \$99.4 million.
- The bulk of duties collected from U.S. tilapia imports since the U.S.-China trade war started in July 2018 were imposed on China (Fig. 7).

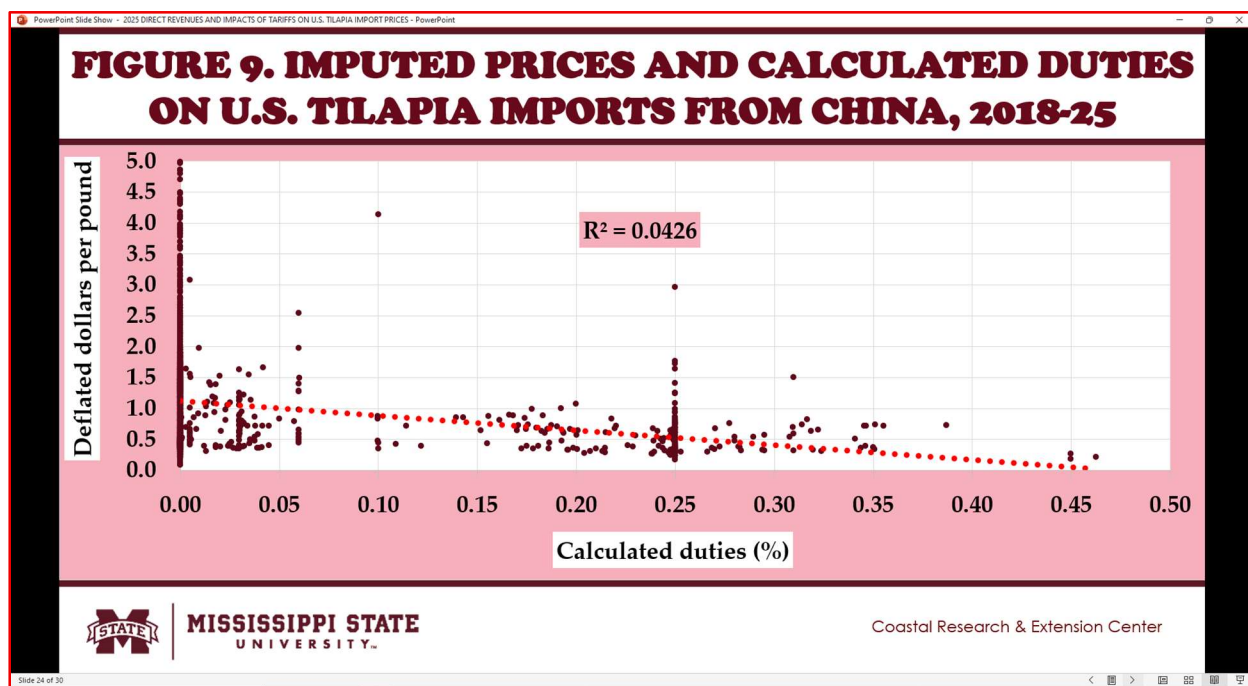
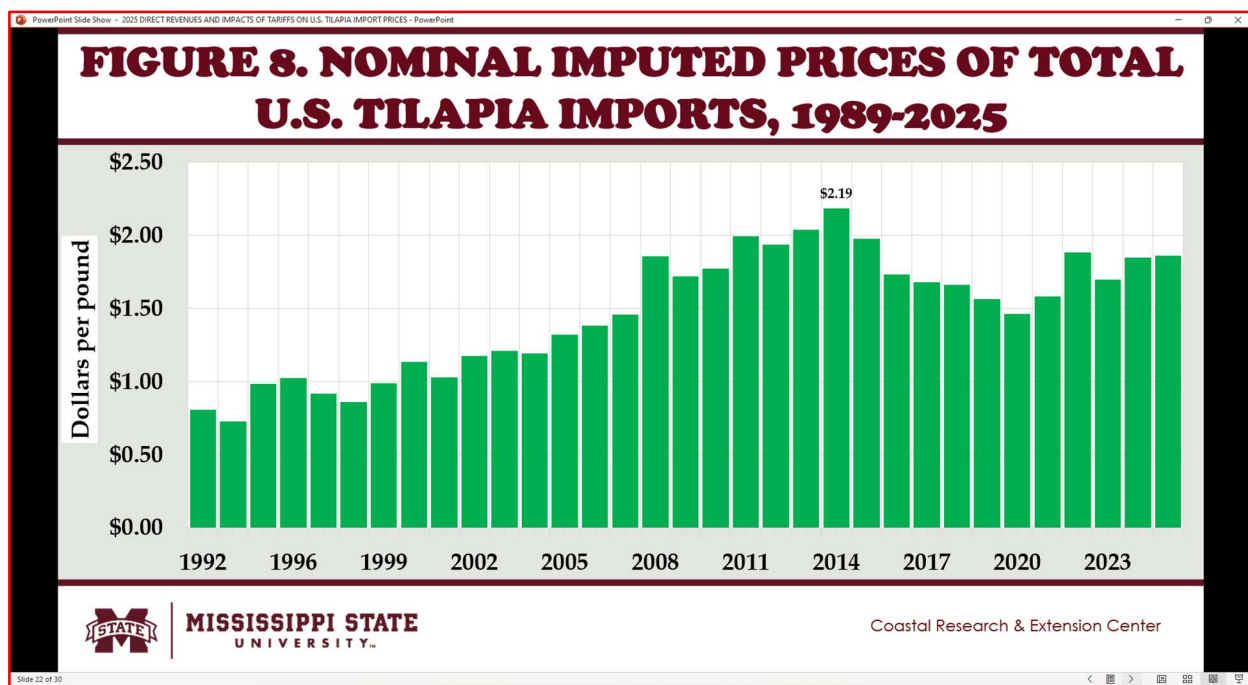


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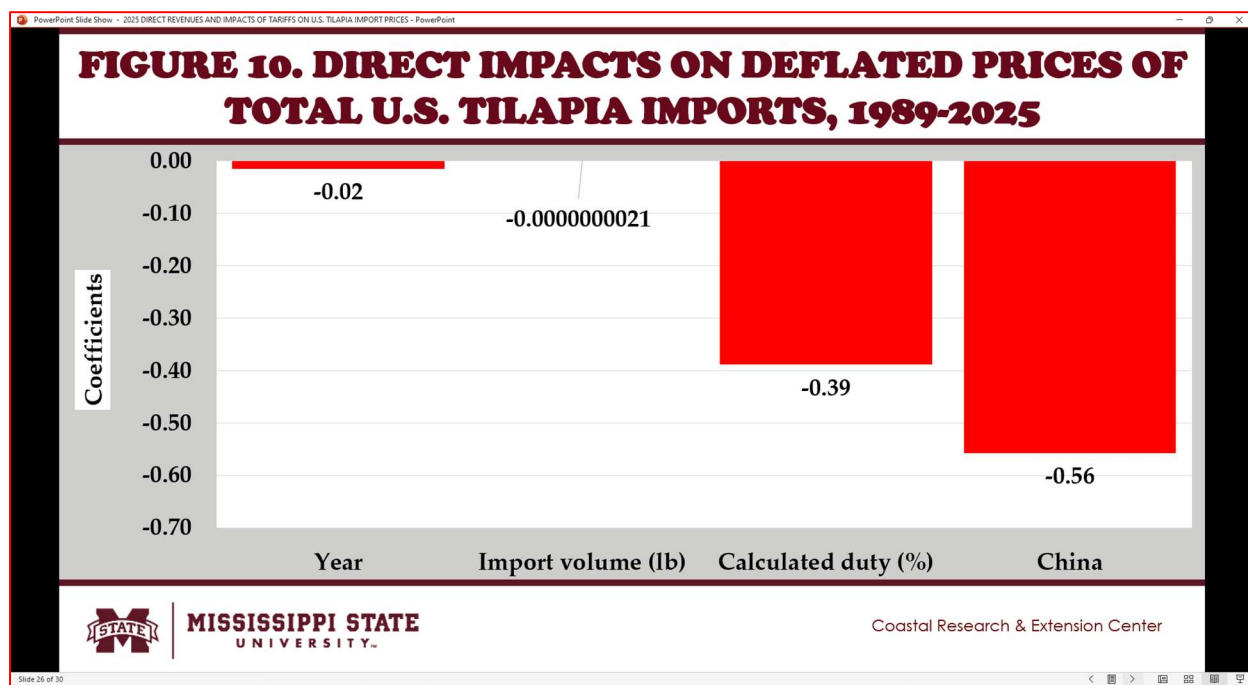
## **IMPUTED AVERAGE PRICES OF U.S. TILAPIA IMPORTS**

- Fig. 8 shows the nominal imputed prices of U.S. tilapia imports since 1992.
- Since 1992, the nominal import prices continued to rise, reaching their peak at \$2.19 per pound in 2014.
- The nominal imputed prices of U.S. tilapia imports have fluctuated between \$1.50 and \$2.00 per pound since 2015.
- Fig. 9 shows the scatter diagram between deflated imputed average prices and calculated duties on U.S. tilapia imports since 2018.
- The empirical relationship indicates that deflated imputed prices tend to fall as calculated duties increased to 25%.
- When calculated duties increased by more than 25%, the deflated imputed average tends to rise.
- These results indicate that there is no definite distribution of the tariff burdens on U.S. tilapia imports between countries of origin and U.S. importers.
- Fig. 10 shows the insignificant results of the econometric model on deflated imputed average prices of U.S. tilapia imports since 2018.
- The average deflated import prices of U.S. tilapia imports did not significantly fall over time.
- The average deflated import prices of U.S. tilapia imports were not significantly lower at higher volumes of imports.
- The average deflated import prices of U.S. tilapia imports were lower, but not significant, at higher calculated duties.
- The average deflated import prices of U.S. tilapia imports were not considerably higher for imports from China.





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## SUMMARY, LIMITATIONS, AND IMPLICATIONS

- China supplied 64.5% of U.S. tilapia imports in 2018. The U.S.-China trade war since 2018 reduced China's share to 52.1% in 2024 and 54.6% in 2025.
- Significant amounts of duties, reaching \$13.8 million, were collected from U.S. tilapia imports when the U.S.-China trade war started in July 2018. Total calculated duties reached their peak in 2022 at \$99.4 million
- The bulk of duties collected from U.S. tilapia imports since the U.S.-China trade war started in July 2018 were imposed on China.
- The average deflated import prices of U.S. tilapia imports were not significantly influenced by time, volume of imports, rates of calculated duties, or country of origin.
- These results indicate that there is no definite distribution of the tariff burdens on U.S. tilapia imports between countries of origin and U.S. importers.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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## SUGGESTED CITATION

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## ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

- Posadas, Benedict C. 2025. Tariffs on U.S. Tilapia Imports: Direct Revenues and Impacts on Prices. Informational virtual presentation. Horticulture and Marine Economics Outreach, Vol. 2025, No. 18. Mississippi State University, Coastal Research and Extension Center, Biloxi, MS. <https://youtu.be/CMBNcaGbJmo>.