

1 LESLIE A. WULFF (CSBN 277979)
2 MANISH KUMAR (CSBN 269493)
3 MICAH L. RUBBO (CSBN 267465)
4 ANDREW SCHUPANITZ (CSBN 315850)
5 U.S. Department of Justice
6 Antitrust Division
7 450 Golden Gate Avenue
8 Box 36046, Room 10-0101
9 San Francisco, CA 94102
10 Telephone: (415) 934-5300
11 Leslie.Wulff@usdoj.gov

12 Attorneys for the United States

FILED
MAY 16 2018
SUSAN Y. SOONG
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
RS

13 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
14 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
15 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

16 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

17 v.

18 CHRISTOPHER LISCHESKI,
19 Defendant.

CR18 0203

VIOLATION: 15 U.S.C. § 1
Price Fixing

20 INDICTMENT

21 The Grand Jury charges that:

22 I. INTRODUCTION

23 At all times relevant to this Indictment, unless otherwise indicated:

24 1. Packaged seafood consists of shelf-stable tuna fish that is sold in cans and is
25 manufactured in a broad range of sizes and specifications.

26 2. Bumble Bee Foods, LLC ("Bumble Bee"), was a limited liability company
27 incorporated in Delaware with its principal place of business in San Diego, California.
28

1 Bumble Bee manufactured, supplied, and sold packaged seafood to customers in the United
2 States.

3 3. Defendant CHRISTOPHER LISCHEWSKI was the President and Chief
4 Executive Officer of Bumble Bee.

5 4. Whenever in this Indictment reference is made to any act, deed, or transaction
6 of any corporation, the allegation means that the corporation engaged in the act, deed, or
7 transaction by or through its officers, directors, employees, agents, or other representatives
8 while they were actively engaged in the management, direction, control, or transaction of its
9 business or affairs.

10 II. DESCRIPTION OF THE OFFENSE

11 5. The factual allegations in Paragraphs 1 through 4 are re-alleged and incorporated
12 by reference.

13 6. CHRISTOPHER LISCHEWSKI is hereby indicted and made a defendant on the
14 charge contained in this Indictment.

15 7. Beginning in or about November 2010 and continuing until in or about
16 December 2013, the exact dates being unknown to the Grand Jury, in the Northern District of
17 California and elsewhere, the defendant and coconspirators knowingly entered into and
18 engaged in a combination and conspiracy to suppress and eliminate competition by fixing
19 prices for packaged seafood sold in the United States. The combination and conspiracy
20 engaged in by the defendant and coconspirators was an unreasonable restraint of interstate
21 commerce in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. § 1). The defendant
22 knowingly joined and participated in the charged conspiracy beginning in or about November
23 2010 and continuing until in or about December 2013.

24 8. The charged combination and conspiracy consisted of a continuing agreement,
25 understanding, and concert of action among the defendant and coconspirators, the substantial
26 terms of which were to fix and maintain prices of packaged seafood sold in the United States.

27 //

28 //

1 9. Various corporations and individuals, not made defendants in this Indictment,
2 participated as coconspirators in the offense charged herein and performed acts and made
3 statements in furtherance thereof.

4 III. MEANS AND METHODS OF THE CONSPIRACY

5 10. For the purpose of forming and carrying out the charged combination and
6 conspiracy, the defendant and coconspirators did those things that they combined and
7 conspired to do, and authorized, ordered, and consented to the participation of subordinate
8 employees in those things that they combined and conspired to do, including, among other
9 things:

- 10 a) participated in meetings, conversations, and communications concerning
11 prices of packaged seafood to be sold in the United States;
- 12 b) agreed during those meetings, conversations, and communications on
13 prices for packaged seafood sold in the United States;
- 14 c) agreed during those meetings, conversations, and communications to limit
15 and restrict competition between the conspirators as to certain types and
16 categories of products, including, but not limited to, competition for
17 products based on certain types of fishing methods;
- 18 d) collected, exchanged, monitored, and discussed information on prices,
19 sales, supply, demand, and the production of packaged seafood for the
20 purpose of reaching agreements on prices and monitoring and enforcing
21 adherence to the agreements reached;
- 22 e) issued price announcements and pricing guidance for packaged seafood in
23 accordance with the agreements reached;
- 24 f) sold packaged seafood in the United States at collusive and
25 noncompetitive prices;
- 26 g) accepted payments for packaged seafood sold in the United States at
27 collusive and noncompetitive prices; and

28 //

1 h) employed measures to conceal their conduct, including, but not limited to,
2 using code when referring to coconspirators, meeting at offsite locations to
3 avoid detection, limiting distribution and discouraging retention of
4 documents reflecting conspiratorial contacts, and providing misleading
5 justifications for prices.

6 IV. TRADE AND COMMERCE

7 11. During the period covered by this Indictment, the defendant and coconspirators
8 sold and distributed substantial quantities of packaged seafood in a continuous and
9 uninterrupted flow of interstate trade and commerce to customers located in states or countries
10 other than states or countries in which the packaged seafood was produced. In addition,
11 substantial quantities of equipment and supplies necessary to the production and distribution
12 of packaged seafood, as well as substantial payments by customers for packaged seafood sold
13 by defendant and coconspirators, traveled in interstate trade and commerce.

14 12. During the period covered by this Indictment, the business activities of the
15 defendant and coconspirators, their corporate employers, and other coconspirators in
16 connection with the sale of packaged seafood that is the subject of this Indictment were within
17 the flow of, and substantially affected, interstate trade and commerce within the United States.

18 //
19 //
20 //
21 //
22 //
23 //
24 //
25 //
26 //
27 //
28 //

1 ALL IN VIOLATION OF TITLE 15, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 1.

2
3 Dated: May 16, 2018

A TRUE BILL

4
5
6 
MAKAN DELRAHIM

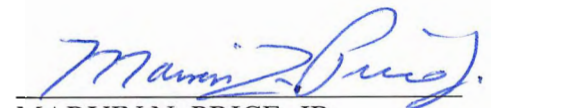


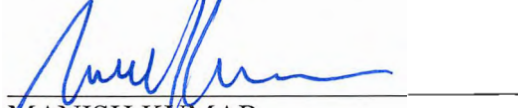
FOREPERSON

7 Assistant Attorney General


8 
9 BERNARD A. NIGRO, JR.
10 Deputy Assistant Attorney General

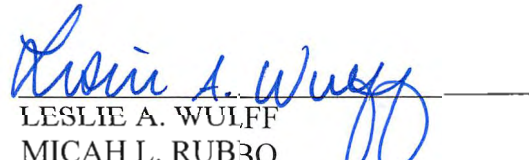

11 E. KATE PATCHEN
12 Chief, San Francisco Office

13 
14 MARVIN N. PRICE, JR.
15 Acting Deputy Assistant Attorney General


16 MANISH KUMAR
17 Assistant Chief, San Francisco Office

18 Antitrust Division
19 United States Department of Justice

20 
21 ALEX G. TSE
22 Acting United States Attorney
23 Northern District of California


24 LESLIE A. WULFF
25 MICAH L. RUBZO
26 ANDREW SCHUPANITZ
27 Attorneys, Antitrust Division
28 U.S. Department of Justice
San Francisco Office
450 Golden Gate Ave
Box 36046, Room 10-0101
San Francisco, CA 94102
Tel.: (415) 934-5300