

News and Information from Oregon International Port of Coos Bay

For Immediate Release: April 5, 2007

Commercial Fishermen Will Have Ice in Charleston for the 2007 Fishing Season

Ice for the commercial fishing fleet is available again at the Ice Dock at the Charleston Marina following completion of facility repairs and replacement of a condenser on the ice-making equipment. And it's good news for commercial fishermen in light of upcoming salmon and shrimp seasons. The plant was tested Sunday, April 1, and is now in full operation.

Staff of the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay negotiated an agreement with Charleston Ice Dock operator Pat Houck to transfer the on-dock building and ice-making equipment to the Port in exchange for releasing Houck from a long-term lease on the dock. Houck will continue to operate the plant under a new three-year agreement. The Port's Board of Commissioners is scheduled to take action on the agreement April 11, 2007.

When informed that ice was no longer available at the Charleston Marina in quantities needed to supply commercial fishing boats, Port staff investigated a variety of options for providing the much needed commodity. After looking at a variety of ice sources and analyzing costs, a refrigeration specialist was asked to inspect the ice-making equipment and overall facility and provide an estimated cost for rehabilitation.

The cost estimates indicated that the condenser was beyond repair and a new unit would run \$40,000 to \$60,000; however a good used condenser was available for \$15,000. Additionally, repairs were needed in the load-bearing decking of the Ice Dock and to the electrical and plumbing systems. Total cost of all repairs came in at \$22,000, which the Port is taking from its Depreciation Fund. All work was completed the last week of March 2007.

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