

News and Information from Charleston Marina

owned and operated by the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay

For Immediate Release: April 12, 2010

Ice Available Again for Commercial Fisherman at the Charleston Marina

Ice – a vital commodity in the commercial fishing industry – is once again available from the Ice Dock at the Charleston Marina. In recent weeks the marina maintenance staff repaired, replaced and upgraded components of the ice making equipment in order to have ice available for the 2010 shrimp season, which opened on April 1.

Industrial ice service is available for commercial fishermen and other users 24-hours per day, seven-days a week by calling the Charleston Marina office at 541-888-2548. Marina staff will respond to the ice dock quickly during normal weekday work hours 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. When fishermen need ice outside normal weekday work hours, including weekends, a call to the office is required to schedule ice service from the marina staff.

During the past two months, the maintenance crew corrected several plant safety issues, repaired parts of the electrical system, serviced components of the ice maker, recharged the freezing system, rebuilt auger chutes, installed new cooling fan motors, upgraded some equipment and repaired the rake system in the ice storage facility.

Marina Facilities Manager Aaron Simons said, "We've seen a significant increase in the quality of ice the plant produces, and we're ready to supply the shrimp fleet and other commercial users with better ice. Ice quality is more consistent and it should last longer. We've tested the plant and everything is working well."

Former Charleston Ice lessee and operator Pat Houk has assisted with the plant rehabilitation, primarily by training members of the marina maintenance staff on how to safely and efficiently operate the equipment and deliver ice to commercial fishing boats.

In March 2007, a used condenser was installed on the ice machine and repairs were made to the dock, water and electrical systems. Those repairs allowed the ice plant to reopen and supply ice to commercial fishermen for the past several years.

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In the coming months, the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay will be moving forward with other upgrades to the ice making equipment and the ice dock with funds provided through a federal appropriation administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development as part of its Economic Development Initiative (EDI) program.

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