

# News and Information from **Oregon International Port of Coos Bay**

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## **Charleston Ice Dock to close for upgrades**

The Oregon International Port of Coos Bay's Charleston Ice Dock will close December 1 for a complete overhaul of ice-making equipment and upgrades to the dock. The Ice Dock is tentatively scheduled to re-open on June 1, 2011.

The Port received \$340,900 for the project in federal stimulus funds through a federal appropriation of the Economic Development Initiative (EDI) program, in addition to committing \$350,000 in Port matching funds.

The Ice Dock is the only commercial source of flake ice for the home-ported and visiting commercial fishing fleets and recreational boaters in Charleston. Port staff has timed the closure to coincide with a seasonal decrease in ice demand to have the least impact on the commercial fleet. Typically, December, January, February and March are the dock's slowest months. The commercial crabbing fleet does not rely on ice, and demand remains low until shrimp season opens in April. Hallmark Fisheries in Charleston has agreed to provide ice on a limited, interim basis to commercial vessels.

Built in 1978, the Ice Dock was privately operated until it closed in January 2010. The Port acquired the Ice Dock, re-opening it in April 2010, making ice available 24 hours a day by appointment. The upgrades and new components are expected to add 30 more years of life to the facility.

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