



## Ocean Choice International L.P.

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### NEWS RELEASE

#### ***Ocean Choice International (Ocean Choice) seeks reasonable labour agreement***

**St. John's, NL** – Ocean Choice International and the FFAW today resumed contract negotiations with the assistance of a conciliator appointed by Government to review the positions of both parties to determine if there was any common ground to negotiate a settlement. Unfortunately, an agreement could not be reached and talks have broken off.

Martin Sullivan, Chief Executive Officer, reported that the company proposed a wage increase for the next two years. "It's no secret that the fishing industry is facing challenges – market conditions, the Canadian dollar and the world wide recession are all factors adversely affecting the overall industry," said Sullivan.

This is the first contract for Ocean Choice International to negotiate with the FFAW for the plants located at Bonavista, Dildo, Marystown, Port Union, Port au Choix, and Triton.

"The Company has offered an overall wage increase to a wage of \$13.25 per hour in year one and \$13.45 in year two. In addition we offered the maintenance trades a significant increase," stated Sullivan.

The expired collective agreement is the highest total compensation agreement within the seafood industry in Newfoundland and Labrador and Sullivan indicated that the current offer will maintain our industry leadership position in terms of total compensation offered to our employees.

We remain open to the possibility of finding a solution before any job action is taken.

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