

March 11, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCI PORT UNION PLANT WILL NOT RE-OPEN FOR UPCOMING SEASON

(St. John's) - Ocean Choice International (OCI) announced today that its Port Union shrimp processing plant will not re-open this upcoming season after sustaining damages in excess of \$10 million during Hurricane Igor in 2010. Recent updates from insurance adjusters, engineers and contractors have determined that it will be impossible to have the plant ready for the 2011 fishery. OCI will increase production at their Port aux Choix plant and contract production of the balance of the raw material with other processors to ensure market requirements are met.

"Despite continuous efforts since Hurricane Igor to resolve insurance and other issues it has become apparent that we cannot open this year," said Martin Sullivan, Chief Executive Officer. "We know this is difficult news for our 180 employees and the communities that will be impacted by this situation, especially Port Union. This illustrates how the negative impact of the hurricane continues to be felt in communities, lives and businesses in rural Newfoundland."

When Hurricane Igor swept through eastern Newfoundland in September of 2010 the Port Union plant structure, grounds, nearby roads and the adjacent wharf received extensive damage. Inside the plant many critical pieces of processing equipment and technology were left inoperable by exposure to flooding and high winds. Since that time OCI has worked with their insurance providers and with engineers to assess the damage and the cost of repairs. During that period approximately \$2 million has been spent by OCI to secure the site and building and ensure safe access and structures.

The shrimp fishery in Newfoundland is a seasonal business that usually begins in early May. "It is critical for our business to determine with certainty prior to the season where we can process the various products our customers need," said Sullivan. "With the season now only a few weeks away it has become apparent that we need to make alternative arrangements to salvage this season."

OCI will continue to work diligently with the various contractors and engineers to determine next steps and timing related to the plant's future and especially with their employees and other community stakeholders to provide direction critical to them. OCI will work closely with the Fish Food and Allied Workers Union to help determine if the affected workers can find alternative employment this year and, where possible, will try to hire affected employees throughout its other operations in the Province. "We realize the impact this will have on our Port Union employees and we will help wherever possible to place these employees in alternate employment" said Sullivan.

Ocean Choice International is one of Canada's leading vertically integrated seafood harvesting, processing and marketing companies with operations throughout Atlantic Canada and Sales & Marketing offices around the world. As Canada's largest wild fish quota holder OCI is a leader in fishing and processing technology and market development.

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