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Trident Seafoods modernizes fleet with catcher/processor Starbound

Dec. 6, 2021 (Seattle, WA)—Trident Seafoods, Aleutian Spray Fisheries, Inc., both family-owned seafood companies, as well as Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA) and Bratvold Fisheries, Inc. announced today that Trident will acquire the 300-foot at-sea processor C/P Starbound.

The Starbound, originally built in 1989 as a 240-foot factory trawler for the Bering Sea, in 2015 underwent a \$45 million renovation that involved slicing it down the middle and welding in a 60-foot addition. The expansion added state-of-the-art processing capacity that enables full utilization of every sustainably caught wild Alaska pollock pulled from the ocean.

“The Starbound aligns perfectly with Trident’s values and vision,” said Trident CEO Joe Bundrant. “Modernizing our aging fleet of catcher processors has been a priority for some time. With this investment, we improve our efficiency and environmental performance in our continuous effort to better utilize wild Alaska pollock and Pacific whiting resources, while keeping constant focus on health of fish stocks and the role we play in protecting our natural environment. Continuing to evolve, innovate, and align product forms to market opportunities on and off-shore is fundamental to our mission and service to stakeholders, including our fishermen, employees, communities, and customers.”

The U.S. Alaska pollock fishery is among the most well-managed in the world. Trident and Aleutian Spray have shared a commitment to annually invest in fisheries and ecosystem research to improve knowledge about the Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, recognizing their stewardship responsibility. The Starbound has served as an exceptional platform for research and gear innovation in the Alaska pollock fishery and will continue to support those important initiatives under Trident’s ownership. Trident is grateful for Aleutian Spray’s exceptional leadership and lasting contributions in North Pacific fisheries.

Aleutian Spray President Chris Swasand said Trident is the perfect buyer for the Starbound.

“As multi-generational, family companies, we both understand the importance of making meaningful, long-term investments,” Swasand said. “The Starbound represents the kind of

continuous innovation that secures the health of both fish populations and fishing families well into the future.”

Catcher/processors like the Starbound harvest and process fish fresh from the ocean. They enable catch to be filleted, frozen and packaged within hours, maximizing freshness. In addition to fillets, the Starbound produces a wide range of other seafood items, including fish meal and fish oil – some of which is used as a renewable fuel on the ship.

The acquisition also includes Aleutian Spray’s F/V Ocean Harvester and F/V Muir Milach, which Trident welcomes to its fleet of Bering Sea and Pacific whiting catcher vessels. APICDA will continue to be a partner with Trident harvesting its pollock resource. Service to Trident’s independent fishermen and quota partners, and adding value to our partnerships remain the highest priority and will not be compromised by this transaction. Trident looks forward to Aleutian Spray crew and vessels joining the Trident family.

Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

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ABOUT TRIDENT

Trident Seafoods, 100-percent American owned and privately held, is the largest vertically integrated seafood harvesting and processing company in North America, employing more than 8,000 people and serving hundreds of independent harvesters throughout Alaska each year. In addition to its primary processing facilities in ten coastal communities in Alaska, Trident owns and operates three large whitefish catcher/processors and a fleet of fishing and support vessels. Trident’s “From the Source to the Plate” motto exemplifies its continuing commitment to stay close to the resource, to know its fish and its fishermen, and to maintain the quality and integrity of its products throughout the value chain. Trident serves markets in more than 50 countries with wild Alaska seafood products from its value-added processing facilities in the U.S., Japan, Europe, China, and Latin America.

ABOUT ALEUTIAN SPRAY

Aleutian Spray Fisheries, Inc., was among the pioneers of the Americanization of vast stocks of Bering Sea groundfish that had formerly been harvested, processed and marketed by foreign fleets. The company was established in 1969 by Naval Architect Henry Swasand, and as the firm grew during the 1970’s, other members of the Swasand family joined their father. Today, a third generation of Swasands is active in the company’s management. Its vessels are all built in Pacific Northwest shipyards to the Swasand family’s exacting specifications. Along with the quality and capability of its vessels, versatility has long been Aleutian Spray’s trademark.

