

Sealaska buys processing plant

Ocean Beauty Seafoods, Inc., has reached an agreement to purchase the assets of the Bumble Bee Seafoods processing plant in Newport, Oregon, according to Sealaska Corp. Chairman Byron I. Mallott.

Ocean Beauty Seafoods, Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sealaska. The acquisition is expected to be finalized on Friday, February 5, 1982.

"The Newport plant is an excellent plant which has operated successfully in processing bottomfish and other seafoods, and is a good addition to our existing system of processing operations," Mallott said.

"The acquisition of the plant will help us develop a stronger position in the bottomfish and fresh seafood market," Mallott said. "The Portland Fish Group has been a consistently profitable segment of Ocean Beauty Seafoods, Inc., and this acquisition serves to strengthen their capability.

According to V.W. Horgan, Executive Vice President of Ocean Beauty Seafoods, Inc., the facility will be operated as Oregon Coast Seafoods, Inc., a member of the Ocean Beauty group. The Newport plant processes Pacific shrimp, Dungeness crab, salmon, black cod, and bottomfish.

"The Newport plant is a desirable acquisition for Ocean Beauty because its location and facilities enable fast processing and quality production of bottomfish," Mallott said. "Our evaluation of the facility with its crab, shrimp, salmon, and other seafood

products capabilities indicated that the Newport operation will be a good, competitive processing facility."

The facility is located in Newport, Oregon, approximately 110 miles south of Astoria. The 2-story plant is about 30 years old, with dock facilities, truck loading facilities, processing machinery for shrimp, crab and other seafoods, and freezing and cold storage space. The plant is capable of handling (on a daily basis) 50,000 lbs. of shrimp, 50,000 lbs. of crab, and 35,000 to 100,000 lbs. of bottomfish, depending on the species processed. The plant has a freezing capacity of 30 tons per day, cold storage capacity of 400,000 lbs., and icemaking capacity of 30 tons per day.

Sealaska Corporation is the largest of 13 Regional Corporations formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, with investments in fisheries, forest products, finance, building materials and transportation, petroleum, and in other natural resource development in the state of Alaska.