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## Trident Seafoods focuses full resources on eliminating COVID-19 from facilities

Jan. 28, 2021 (Seattle, WA)—Trident has continued to make progress in understanding and addressing the extent of the COVID-19 outbreak at its Akutan, Alaska, processing plant.

As of Jan. 28, nearly all of 706 workers at the facility had been tested. A total of 266 tested positive, relying mainly on antigen rapid test methods for these initial results.

“Additional medical professionals and testing supplies have arrived in Akutan, allowing us to now increase the speed and frequency of testing to meet our response plan goal for rapid testing every 1-3 days and more accurate PCR testing as necessary,” said Stefanie Moreland, Trident vice president of government relations. “This will allow us to be confident in assessing and reporting on our progress toward recovering from this outbreak. We are committed to transparency and updating our stakeholders, including our fishermen, employees, customers, and communities in which we operate.”

As a precaution, Trident has chartered flights for non-emergency evacuations to move about 100 employees to quarantine in Anchorage, where additional medical support is available if it becomes necessary. Transferred groups include people with certain health conditions that put them at high risk for severe illness if infected. The groups also include employees with COVID-19 symptoms, as defined by Centers for Disease Control Guidance and assessed in collaboration with the company’s medical partners.

At this point, 613 employees remain on-site at the Akutan facility. Of those, 195 who tested positive are isolating in company housing and have been separated from individuals who tested negative.

“Our people are safe, supported, and have been cooperative through the disruption necessitated by isolation efforts to eliminate the virus from their living and working quarters,” Moreland said.

Given its extensive quarantine and testing efforts prior to transporting employees to remote locations, Trident was surprised to discover the presence of COVID-19 at the Akutan facility on Jan. 17, which surfaced through required testing that was part of the emergency evacuation of an ill employee. Additional testing and isolation measures were immediately implemented for

the approximately 700 employees on site. Since then, the company has arranged emergency medical evacuations to Anchorage for five additional employees who became severely ill from COVID-19 and other conditions.

“Their health and well-being are of utmost importance to us, and we are doing everything we can to ensure they are getting the best care available,” Moreland said.

In another development, Trident’s catcher/processor vessel Island Enterprise arrived in Dutch Harbor Jan. 28 with two workers exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms. Rapid testing through the night of all 125 people onboard surfaced five confirmed cases and two non-positive individuals reporting minor symptoms.

“We believe we detected the virus early, but due to the close quarters on the vessel, we began this morning taking steps to re-quarantine the full workforce for at least 14 days,” Moreland said. “As with our Akutan location, we’ve reviewed our quarantine strategy and other prevention protocols throughout our closed-campus and vessel operations. We have not detected a gap that would explain how the virus entered, so are consulting with our medical partners on additional testing options to supplement current strong prevention measures.”

Trident’s Akutan facility and Island Enterprise vessel are not operating at this time. The company is focusing all resources on eliminating the virus to support a safe return to work and full resumption of operations.

“Our exceptional team and supportive partners continue to humble and inspire me,” said Trident CEO Joe Bundrant. “While the situation couldn’t be more unwelcome, I know that we are doing all the right things and am confident we will get through this difficult time.”

## **ABOUT TRIDENT**

Trident Seafoods, 100-percent American-owned and privately held, is the largest vertically integrated seafood harvesting and processing company in North America. The company employs more than 8,000 people and serves 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 four mobile processing ships. 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. It has facilities in the U.S., Japan, Europe, China and Latin America.

Trident’s Akutan shore plant is remote and entirely self-reliant, in proximity to Bering Sea fishing grounds on an island located 750 miles southwest of Anchorage in Alaska’s Aleutian Chain.

With more than 1,400 company-housed employees during peak seasons, Akutan sustains a year-round, multi-species frozen seafood operation capable of processing as much as 3 million pounds of raw fish per day. Wild Alaska pollock—the Bering Sea’s most abundant whitefish— is the primary focus of the Akutan operation, and the plant also processes significant volumes of Pacific cod, Alaska king & snow crab, halibut and other important species.

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