

CARRYING BEEF FROM DOWN-UNDER ON

M/V Luzon Strait's Maiden Voyage

On November 7, the *M/V Luzon Strait* made its maiden voyage to the Port of Wilmington with a cargo of palletized Australian frozen beef for the U.S. market. *M/V Luzon Strait* is a newly built state-of-the-art, break-bulk reefer vessel. It was chartered by C&S Shipping of Brisbane, Australia to carry Australian frozen beef to U.S. importers on the U.S. East Coast and throughout the Mid-West. The employment of this very capable vessel demonstrates C&S's continuing commitment to the trade and its customers, both in Australia and the U.S.

The *M/V Luzon Strait* was built along with its sister ship, the *M/V Lombok Strait*, in the CSBC shipyard in Taiwan

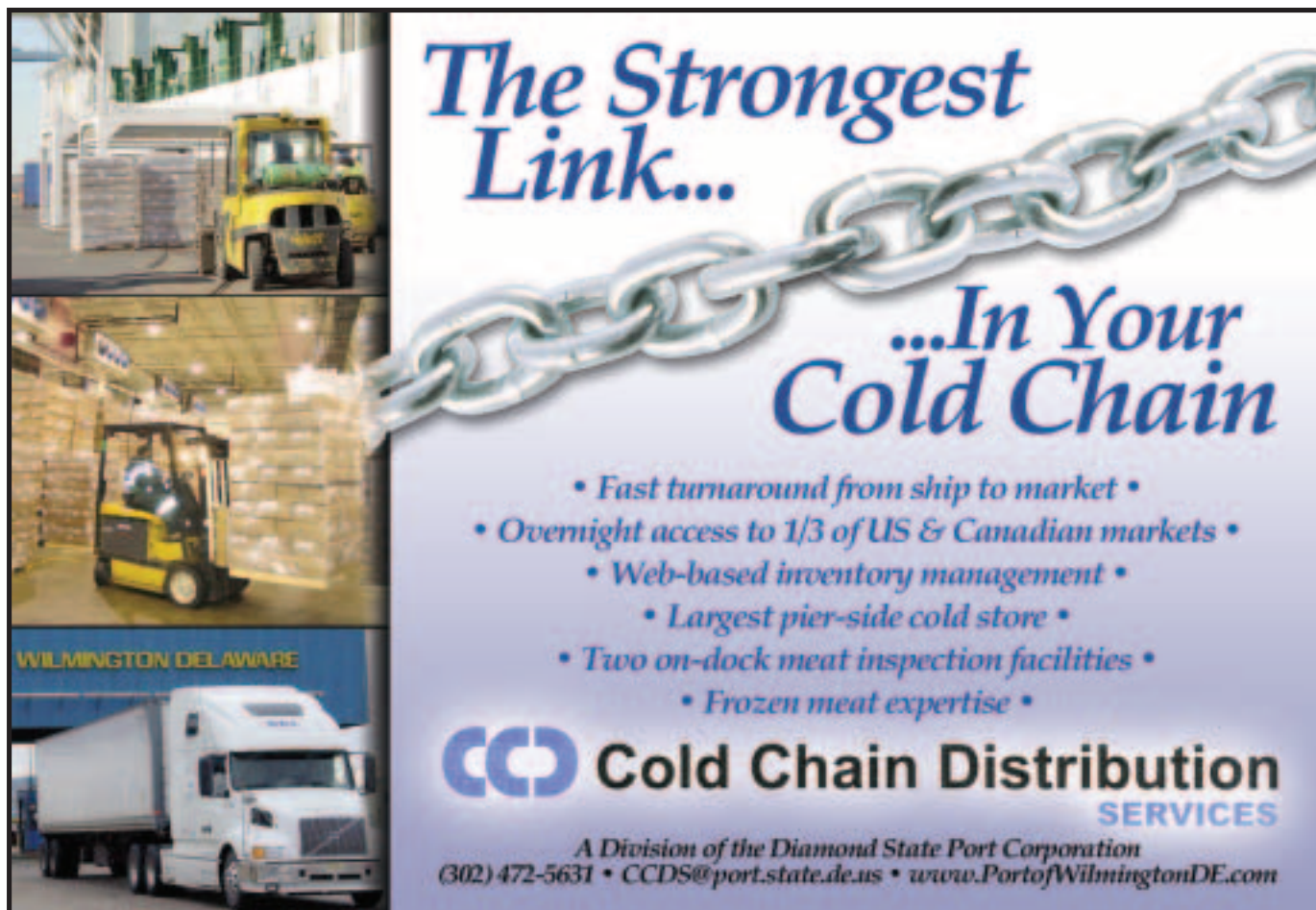
for Seatrade Groningen B.V. and was commissioned in August 2002. The new 626,010 cbft / 7340 sqm vessel has an under deck capacity of 5,600 standard pallets plus on deck space for 220 x 40' containers, with 200 reefer plugs. She is designed to provide unique flexibility during handling of perishable cargo by enabling access to the cargo holds via four side doors while simultaneously discharging or loading containerized cargo.

Pallet cages/trolleys with capacity for eight pallets each (12,5 mt payload) can reach any of the decks. The cargo operation is fully weatherproof, thereby ensuring both problem-free discharge of the cargo and on-time delivery.

The *M/V Luzon Strait* is fully self-sustaining for container operations with handling gear that includes two 45 mt SWL cranes and full deck storage space for containers.

With a Hyundai-MAN B&W main engine delivering 21,490 BHP, the vessel has a service speed of 21.5 knots, enabling her to maintain tight schedules. During her maiden voyage, the *M/V Luzon Strait* loaded cargo in Townsville, Mackay, Port Alma, and Brisbane in northeast Australia prior to coming to Wilmington.

C&S Shipping has been delivering Australian frozen beef through the Port of Wilmington since 2000 for



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customers such as Swift AMH, Orleans International, Consolidated Meat Group, and Pierce Trading International, Inc.

After discharge, the meat is stored in one of the Port's five specialized on-dock storage facilities. With over 700,000 sq. ft. and over 9 million cubic feet of warehouse space, the Port of Wilmington boasts the largest on-dock refrigerated and freezer capacity in the United States.

Cold Chain Distribution Services, the refrigerated warehouse division of the Port of Wilmington, orchestrates the discharge, storage, inspection and distribution of the Australian beef imports. By providing all of these services, the Port of Wilmington is a leading destination for frozen and refrigerated cargoes – especially frozen beef.



During its maiden voyage to the Port of Wilmington, the M/V Luzon Strait discharged nearly 3,000 pallets or approximately 6,000 tons of Australian frozen beef for distribution to U.S. and Canadian markets.



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