

Executive Director's Letter

The Port of Wilmington is proud to be the nation's Number One gateway for imports of fruit and produce. In the past decade, the Port has specialized in the handling and distribution of fruit and produce in the Port's state-of-the-art dockside cold storage facility, as well as providing real-time on-line inventory control information for better distribution.



This issue focuses on Chilean fruit imports that are handled by the Port during the winter season.

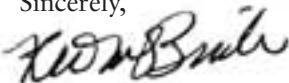
Port Illustrated tells the story of this year's fruit quality and volumes. In addition, we report on the inspection and clearance requirements and services offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture APHIS/PPQ at the Port and the fumigation innovations developed by Royal Fumigation.

This fall has also seen a number of exciting developments at the Port. In late November, the placement of all the support piles and paving of the trestle for the Port's dedicated auto carrier berth were completed. This project will support the growth of Wilmington's automobile trade. The new year also welcomed Wilmington Tug, Inc.'s inauguration of a new Z-Drive "tractor" tug-boat, named Capt. Harry. This addition to Wilmington Tug's fleet will provide Wilmington the ability to handle an increased number of larger vessels docking at the Port.

This issue also focuses on news and developments in Wilmington's maritime community. In November, President of the Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay, Dennis Rochford, was honored as "Maritime Person of the Year" by the Port of Wilmington Maritime Society. The DSPC recently hired a new Director of Operations, a new Director of Planning and Development, and a new Controller. Delaware River Stevedores recently opened its Delaware operations office at the Port of Wilmington administration building. And this winter, Christina Services Company and Port Contractors, Inc. are handling specialized winter-weather cargoes.

We hope you will find this issue informative as you read about the many activities happening at the Port of Wilmington this winter.

Sincerely,



R. Adam McBride
Executive Director

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The Port of Personal Service