



Diamond State Port Corporation

# Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **THE PORT OF WILMINGTON, DELAWARE WELCOMES THE FIRST CHILEAN FRUIT VESSEL TO THE US FOR THE 2016-17 SEASON**

**Wilmington, DE** – The Port of Wilmington, Delaware had the honor of receiving the first breakbulk shipment of Chilean winter fruit to arrive in the US for the seventh consecutive season. The m/v *Hellas Reefer*, a specialized refrigerated vessel operated by Trans Global Shipping NV in the Global Reefers service, was welcomed on Wednesday, December 14th to the nation’s foremost marine terminal for perishable cargo.

On this late autumn morning, the *Hellas Reefer* commenced discharging her cargo of over 992,100 boxes of fresh cherries, blueberries, apricots, peaches, nectarines, and table grapes. Wilmington is a major port of entry and distribution center for the seasonal importation of fresh Chilean winter fruit. During this season, the Port anticipates receiving at least 25 shiploads of fruit from the Chilean ports of Valparaiso, Coquimbo, and Caldera. Global Reefers is the sole shipping line providing an express service direct from Chile to the Port of Wilmington. “The arrival of the *Hellas Reefer* marks the seventh year in a row that the First State has had the opportunity to receive the season opening breakbulk shipment of Chilean winter fruit, not only on the Delaware River but in the entire US. It is our pleasure to once again directly support the trade interests of our partners and customers in providing US and Canadian consumers with the freshest possible fruit for the Holidays,” said Gene Bailey, the Port’s Executive Director.

The cargo is stored in the Port’s 800,000 sf on-dock refrigerated warehouse complex, one of North America’s largest, before distribution throughout Canada and the eastern region of the US. The Port handled over 15,428,000 boxes of Chilean fruit in the 2015-16 season. This important trade supports over 857 family sustaining jobs and annually generates \$48 million in personal income, \$51 million in business revenue and \$5 million in tax revenue for the State and the region.



*Hellas Reefer Chilean fruit discharge operations - Dec 14, 2016 Port of Wilmington, DE*

### **About Global Reefers**

In October, 2013, Seatrade, the world largest specialized refrigerated ship owner/operator as well as leader in specialized reefer logistics and Pacific Seaways, Chile's most important shipping group created and managed by fruit growers and exporters, joined forces to establish Global Reefers NV. Global Reefers was created to offer the industry the most efficient specialized reefer and container liner service from Chile to the world. Pacific Seaways and Seatrade have had business relationships spanning over 20 years. The new company, based in Valparaíso, Chile strengthens their common goal of ensuring "reliable, fast, direct and dedicated reefer shipping logistics towards the future," as their executives have stated.



### **About the Port of Wilmington, Delaware**

Founded in 1923, the Port of Wilmington is a full service Mid-Atlantic seaport on the Delaware River strategically located to provide overnight access to 200 million North American consumers. Wilmington ranks as North America's top banana port and the nation's leading gateway for imports of fresh fruit and juice concentrates. The Port was one of the originally certified '360 Quality' marine terminals in the US, underscoring its high quality handling standards for perishable cargo. An economic engine for the State of Delaware and the region, business activity at the Port creates over 5,900 family sustaining jobs and annually generates \$436 million in business revenue, \$409 million in personal income and \$41 million in local taxes. The Port is owned and operated by the Diamond State Port Corporation, a corporation of the State of Delaware. Visit [www.PortofWilmington.com](http://www.PortofWilmington.com)

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