



813 W. Northern Lights Boulevard, Anchorage, AK 99503, tel. 907-269-3000, fax 907-269-3044, www.aidea.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Thursday January 10, 2002

For more information contact:

Lynn Kenney, 269-3001

UniSea Fish Oil Demonstration Project Yields Positive Results

Unalaska, Alaska: UniSea, Inc. and the Alaska Energy Authority announced that initial testing of the use of fish oil as a supplemental fuel in large stationary diesel engines has recently been completed. The UniSea Fish Oil Demonstration Project is intended to test the practical use of blended fish oil and diesel fuel in one of the six 2.3-megawatt engine-generators UniSea operates to serve its primary seafood processing facilities in the Unalaska/Dutch Harbor community in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska. The UniSea Fish Oil Demonstration Project is being conducted with funding support from the Alaska Science & Technology Foundation, Alaska Energy Authority, and United States Department of Energy.

An independent contractor performed testing of the engine exhaust emissions over a 5-day period in mid-October 2001 with fuel blends ranging from 100 percent diesel to 100 percent fish oil. Results yielded up to 30 percent reductions of airborne particulate matter and carbon monoxide and 45 to 90 percent reduction in sulfur dioxides with the use of blended fuel. The demonstration project has continued operations of the test engine on a 50 percent blend, consuming over 80,000 gallons of fish oil to-date. This second phase of the project is intended to conclusively determine any long-term impacts of the blended fuel on the test engine. The engine has operated normally throughout the testing with no apparent adverse effects from the change in fuel. A detailed inspection of the engine will be conducted at the conclusion of long-term testing later in 2002.

Currently around 3.5 million gallons of fish oil are produced annually from pollock processing operations in Unalaska. Additional volumes are produced in other locations in the Aleutian Islands, Kodiak, and the Southeast coast. Exporting the oil to markets in the Pacific Rim and the lower 48 presents difficult logistical issues for the three large processors in Unalaska and thus often holds a very low commercial value. With approximately the same energy content as diesel, clean-burning fish oil holds promise for fuel savings and substantial reductions in air pollutants in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor and other western Alaska communities.

The testing was conducted for UniSea by Steigers Corporation of Centennial, Colorado with the cooperation of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. Additionally, the Fairbanks Morse Engine Division of Goodrich Corporation and participants in the Pacific Regional Biomass Energy Program are providing technical assistance and support for the yearlong testing program.

“We’re quite happy with the results of the test so far”, says Terry Shaff, UniSea’s President.. “Basically it means a new market for a low-end product, and that helps us and the industry.”

The Alaska Energy Authority's executive director Bob Poe sees benefits to local residents. "The economics of this demonstration are really impressive when you consider that Unisea is replacing \$1.19/gallon diesel with 25 cent/gallon fish oil. Using a local natural resource to displace imported oil and improve the environment can only help the sustainability of our fishing communities," said Poe.

UniSea, Inc., headquartered in Redmond, Washington, is among the world's leading producers of quality seafood products marketed and distributed throughout the world. For further project information contact John Steigers of Steigers Corporation at (303) 799-3633 [jasteigers@steigers.com].

####