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Container Business Proving to be Good Fit for Port of NH

Short Sea Shipping Service adding Diversity to Port

(Portsmouth, NH) After a 17-year absence, container-shipping has returned to the Port of New Hampshire and it's proving to be a good fit. The first vessel carrying containers called at the Market Street Terminal in mid-July to initiate the new service.

Port Director Geno Marconi had been working on re-establishing container shipping for several years and on this particular project for 18 months. Director Marconi was pleased that venture capitalist Dale Wood of Northeast Marine Development proposed the service. Mr. Wood has other maritime related operations on the East and Gulf coasts as well.

"We're not only adding twenty new jobs to the port, we're also helping to make all of our area businesses more competitive. That's been our goal from the very beginning," Marconi said. "And as New Hampshire's only deep water port, it is our responsibility to promote shipping and this new venture enhances one more aspect of that equation," he added.

The Pease Development Authority oversees the port and Executive Director Dick Green agreed with Marconi saying, "We've had our sights set on container business for some time now believing it would compliment the port's current operations and bring more diversity to our dock – it's succeeding in both areas."

The "M/V Simone J" will call on the Port of New Hampshire once a week to load export containers and discharge import containers. Operated by "EIMSKIP" USA Liner Services, the M/V Simone J's Short Sea Shipping schedule will call on Portsmouth on Sundays, Boston on Mondays, Portland on Tuesdays and Halifax, NS on Thursdays and Fridays. The ship, launched in 1997 and carrying the flag of Antigua, is 332 feet in length and capable of carrying 384 TEU (twenty foot equivalent units) at a speed of 13 knots.

For more information on the Port of New Hampshire visit: www.portofnh.org