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Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission

Seafood OREGON

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“SOUTH COAST CHEF TO REPRESENT OREGON IN NEW ORLEANS”

Coos Bay, OR – Chef Woojay Poynter/CSC, a chef instructor at the Oregon Coast Culinary Institute (OCCI) in Coos Bay, won top honors at the recent *Oregon Seafood Championships* and will be Oregon’s representative at the 7th Annual Great American Seafood Cook-Off in New Orleans, LA on August 7th.

Chef Poynter beat out seven other competitors in the American Culinary Federation (ACF) sanctioned event, which was co-sponsored by OCCI and *Seafood OREGON*, an arm of the state’s four industry-funded seafood commodity commissions operating under the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Chefs Damian LaBeaux from the Heathman Restaurant in Portland and Erol Kanmaz from Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood took second and third place respectively, in the competition.

As Oregon’s entry to the event in New Orleans, Poynter will be competing against fifteen other talented chefs from around the country, all vying for the prestigious title of ‘King (or Queen) of Seafood 2010’. Louisiana chef Tory McPhail from Commander’s Palace was last year’s winner.

Seafood OREGON spokesperson and Executive Director of the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission, Nick Furman said “Woojay certainly has the skills and the talent to do well in New Orleans. His attention to detail is phenomenal, and his technique lends itself to creative cuisine.” Chef Poynter’s yet-to-be-determined dish will feature a combination of fresh Oregon seafoods with an emphasis on seasonality and sustainability.

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Seafood OREGON is a cooperative ‘marketing, promotion & education’ venture made up of the state’s four industry-funded Commodity Commissions – The **Oregon Albacore Commission**, the **Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission**, the **Oregon Salmon Commission** and the **Oregon Trawl Commission** – which operate under the umbrella of the Oregon Department of Agriculture’s Commodity Commission Program. Collectively, they represent the majority of the seafood landed in Oregon, which in 2009 had an ‘ex-vessel’ or to-the-boat value of \$104.4 million dollars.