



NEWS RELEASE

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### **CONDOR FERRIES HELPS LOCAL FISHERMEN GET TO MARKET**

Condor Ferries has scheduled five extra return sailings from Jersey to St Malo to help local shellfish fishermen export their catch to France over the busy Christmas period. These additional services will sail on Thursdays in November and December.

Don Thompson, President of The Jersey Fishermen's Association said, 'Exporting on a Thursday is ideal for us and enables our crab and lobster to reach weekend markets in Normandy and Brittany at the optimum time and in the best condition to ensure maximum prices for local fishermen. The extra sailings Condor Ferries has agreed to operate are a real boost for Jersey fishermen at our busiest time and at the end of a tough exporting year.'

Condor Ferries' Managing Director Simon Edsall said, 'There has been some speculation recently about government subsidy of the ferry service, however all our services run without such support. Our services provide year-round passenger and freight travel from the Channel Islands and each sailing incurs operating costs that must be balanced with income to ensure that the business is commercially sustainable throughout the year.'

'We are however very keen to support the local fishermen and Jersey exports, and we believe that this joint enterprise with the Jersey fishermen is the right way to test the feasibility of such partnerships. We are also working hard to promote these sailings to Jersey residents who have additional opportunities to get away to the Continent and are launching a special day trip offer which will enable locals to sample the delights of St Malo in the run up to Christmas at a very attractive price' he added.

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**Issued by Peter Zunino, Image PR. Tel (01534) 734444 or email**

**[peter.zunino@imageci.com](mailto:peter.zunino@imageci.com)**

Notes to Editors

The extra sailings are scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December, and will depart Jersey at 08:45 and return from St Malo at 17:30/18:15.

Despite often extreme fishing conditions, the winter months generally see greater demand and consequent higher prices for exports of local lobster and crab catches. Higher demand is also affected by the fact that other fleets choose not to fish for crab and lobster as much in the winter.

Don Thompson, President of the Jersey Fishermen's Association, former fisherman Mike Taylor and Steve Bailey, Jersey Port Manager, Condor Ferries are available for photography/interview.

#### About Condor Ferries

Condor Ferries was founded in 1964 and initially operated a passenger service between France and the Channel Islands. In 1987 the first service linking the Channel Islands with the UK was launched and since then Condor Ferries has operated a year-round service connecting the UK through Poole, Weymouth and Portsmouth, the Channel Islands through Guernsey and Jersey and the ports of St Malo and Cherbourg in France.

Condor Ferries operates Condor Vitesse, Condor Express, and Condor 10 fast cat ferries. In 1999 Commodore Clipper, a conventional car, passenger and freight carrying vessel was introduced to the fleet to offer an all weather, year round service. Each year Condor Ferries carries some 900,000 passengers and 200,000 passenger vehicles.

Condor Ferries also operates Commodore Goodwill, as a freight only vessel. The Condor Ferries fleet carries 100,000 freight vehicles into the Channel Islands each year as well as exporting tonnes of local produce.

Condor Ferries is also an active member of the communities within which it operates and supports numerous organisations, sports and charities through sponsorship and travel.

More information about Condor Ferries and its services is available at [www.condorferries.com](http://www.condorferries.com).