

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Copper-Alloy Net Pen Survives Chile Earthquake
*Emergency Tsunami Protocol Successfully Activated***

NEW YORK, NY/U.S. (21 April 2014) –

Key Highlights:

- A copper-alloy mesh pen off the coast of Northern Chile survived a tsunami warning following an 8.2 earthquake in Chile's Tarapaca Region earlier this month.
- Juvenile yellowtail fish, *Seriola lalandi*, remain in excellent condition and none escaped during the natural disaster.
- An estimated 150 fishing vessels were destroyed after the April 1 earthquake, affecting more than 1,000 fishermen.
- Copper-alloy netting improves fish production, leading to healthier fish, higher yields, and lower costs.

A recent tsunami warning off Chile's northern coast activated an emergency protocol at a local fish farm. The pen, stocked with yellowtail fish, was deployed in waters 50 m deep. The emergency protocol, followed by EcoSea, involved immersing the pen 10 m below the surface—a procedure that took ten minutes to execute. The pen was then brought to the surface in a procedure that took a mere ten minutes. The structure was undamaged and the fish remained protected. An oxygen supply system was also utilized as a preventive measure, without any problems.

Chile's National Fisheries and Aquaculture Service (Sernapesca) reports that more than 150 fishing vessels and 1,000 fishermen were adversely affected by the country's 8.2 earthquake.

According to Rodrigo Sánchez, EcoSea president, "This experience shows the strength and resiliency of copper net pens in extreme situations. Our copper pen withstood storm surges without any loss of fish or structural damage. A true testament to the value of copper-alloy mesh to the fish farming industry."

This offshore fish farming project in northern Chile has the support of CORFO-Innova (The Chilean Economic Development Agency) and involves the International Copper Association, EcoSea, Acuinar, Indura and the University of Valparaiso.

For more information about copper-alloy mesh visit ICA's aquaculture web library, www.cuaquaculture.org.

About The International Copper Association

The International Copper Association (ICA) increases awareness and use of copper by communicating the unique attributes that make this sustainable element an essential contributor to the formation of life, to



advances in science and technology, and to a higher standard of living throughout the world. The ICA's 43 members represent a majority of the world's refined copper output and are among the largest copper producers, fabricators, and wire and cable companies.

About Copper Alliance™

The Copper Alliance™ is a network of regional copper centers and their industry-leading members, led by ICA. The Copper Alliance and ICA are responsible for guiding policy and strategy and for funding international initiatives and promotional activities. Headquartered in New York, the organization has offices in four primary regions: Asia, Europe and Africa, Latin America and North America. Copper Alliance programs and initiatives are executed in more than 60 countries through its regional offices and 27 copper promotion centers.

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