

## OCEANA COVID-19 CSI INITIATIVES

**Cape Town, 14 April 2020:** The Oceana Group, Africa's largest fishing company, has heeded the call to support all efforts at combating Covid-19 and its impact on people and communities.

Oceana has partnered with a number of relief organisations to assist essential frontline services, vulnerable communities, as well as Oceana employees.

Oceana has donated R600,000 to the Gift of the Givers who are working with government to augment public health services during the Covid-19 pandemic.

This funding will be used in conjunction with other donated funds to acquire essential medical supplies and equipment, as well as medical facilities for the testing and treating of Covid-19 patients.

The equipment includes surgical masks, latex gloves, head covers and coveralls, 1,500 hazmat suits, mobile testing stations, ventilators, as well as sanitiser and disinfectants.

The funds will also be used to help support hospitals such as Chris Hani Baragwanath, Raheema Moosa, Helen Joseph and Northdale, and at immigration points at OR Tambo International, as well as for SAPS and Metro Police members.

Oceana CEO Imraan Soomra said the company, which produces the iconic Lucky Star brand of pilchards, had also made food parcels, which includes over 30,000 cans of Lucky Star pilchards, available for Gift of the Givers to collect from its various provincial distribution sites to be distributed in communities most in need across South Africa during this time.

In addition, Oceana will also be making available over 146,000 litres of water every day from the company's desalination plant at Amawandle Pelagic in Laaiplek on the West Coast and also from its cold storage facility, CCS Logistics, in Epping and Hout Bay site, to government to assist communities that do not have clean water for essential hygiene and sanitation purposes.

Through the Peninsula School Feeding Association (PSFA), Oceana has been able to make a donation of over R500,000 to provide a meal to at least 20,000 families for a period of two weeks. And through Rise Against Hunger (RAH), an organisation that Oceana has worked with for over a decade, 51,000 meals have been distributed to children in vulnerable communities.

Furthermore, Oceana will be working with the PSFA to distribute food parcels to all Oceana staff who have been working during the lockdown due to the fact that as a food producing company it is regarded as an essential service. This gesture has ensured that the families of the group's employees continue to have food during this period whilst they serve our country.

"Charity begins at home and our staff are also our priority during this period," said Soomra.

The company is looking at extending these relief measures to its other regions of operation, including Namibia and the United States.

"We are committed to positively impacting lives during this unprecedented time, not just for our own employees, but for our communities at large," said Soomra.

“We are proud to be able to play our part in saving lives – both by continuing to function as an essential service during this lockdown period and by assisting frontline operations.”

He added that the company had also established the Oceana Group Fund to recognise employees for their meaningful contribution during the declared national state of disaster.

Soomra expressed the belief that by working together across all sectors of society, the global Coronavirus pandemic would be beaten.

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### **Note to editors**

Oceana Group is Africa’s largest fishing company and ranks amongst the most empowered companies listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE). The Group, also listed on the Namibian Stock Exchange (NSX), operates in South Africa, Namibia and the USA and markets fish-based products in 46 countries across the world. The Group is home to the iconic brand, Lucky Star.

As a black-owned, black-controlled and level 1 B-BBEE company, Oceana converts fishing rights into tangible value. Its core business is the catching, procuring, processing, marketing and distribution of canned fish, fishmeal, fish oil, horse mackerel, hake, lobster and squid. The business includes midwater trawling (horse mackerel), deep-sea trawling (hake) and inshore fishing for pelagic fish. In addition, it provides refrigerated warehouse facilities and logistical support services.

Oceana Group employs over 4,000 people in 11 production facilities across the world and manages a fleet of 54 vessels and eight cold storage facilities. It invests in skills development and job security to ensure the sustainability of its operations, as well as the fishing industry.

The Oceana Empowerment Trust (OET) was established in 2006 to impact the lives of more than 2,400 black South African beneficiaries, all of whom are, or have been, Oceana Group employees. The beneficiaries hold more than 13 million shares in the Group and as of end September 2019, over R400 million has been distributed through the Trust.

Oceana Group is committed to contributing to food and job security and strives to be a leading steward of marine resources. It is a founding member of the Responsible Fisheries Alliance (RFA), a partnership with WWF-South Africa, BirdLife South Africa and others to advance an ecosystems approach to fisheries management and promote responsible fishing practices.

Oceana Group makes a sustainable difference by investing in communities in which it operates and thereby positively impacts lives.

For more information, visit <http://oceana.co.za/>.