This weekly bulletin is compiled to give all stakeholders an overview of the current impact of COVID19 on Pacific shipping activities. It draws on sources from government, commercial and humanitarian sectors. The bulletin is circulated each Wednesday.

Overview

Throughout May there has been further stabilisation of shipping services in the Pacific Region. Shipping companies are reporting reduced cargo demand on reduced services. They have responded with a mix of blanked sailings, reduced frequency of services, alteration of scheduled routes and use of smaller vessels. Some delays continue in Solomon Islands and Marshall Islands due to quarantine regulations. In most PICTs cargo vessels and tankers are being considered as essential services and permitted to maintain their schedules while observing strict quarantine conditions.

Kiritimati is enforcing a 1 day quarantine period once the cargo is landed onshore and Tuvalu is imposing a similar 9 day quarantine period. The cargo is held in quarantine within the port during this period. All other PICTs have no COVID-19 quarantine restrictions, once goods are landed they may be dispatched. Temporary COVID-19 quarantine charges have been introduced by some shipping companies to account for increased costs. No PICTs are currently reporting food security issues, or fuel shortages due to interrupted shipping supply, as far as we are aware. Some outer islands are reporting shortages of certain food items. Many PICTs are reporting high levels of fuel in storage as there is reduced fuel consumption. Fuel in storage was purchased in January at the current market price. Global fuel prices have plummeted since January. Globally shipping companies are struggling to facilitate crew changes, with many countries requiring a 14 day quarantine period at sea. The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) reports that there are now more than 200 000 seafarers worldwide who have finished their contractual obligations but are not able to disembark from ships.

State / Territory | Date | Source | Details
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American Samoa | 25-May-20 | Samoa News Website | Manu’a Community Worldwide Facebook page has posted a video showing how Manu’a people have rallied together, sailing as a local (local) to transport cargo and passengers from Tutulì to Manu’a. The bikes travel back and forth in pairs or groups for safety reasons. They have been making these trips since the Samoa Airways charter plane has been restricted by Governor solos for emergencies only. In addition, the MV Manu’atele and MV Soli’i have been invaluable for more than 3 months. Paramount Builders vessel has been making trips to Manu’a to help transport cargo, but most times the vessel capacity for cargo is too small for the high Manu’a demand. Another challenge is no one is able to help a ride on a Manu’a on the boat, thus forcing people to be transported via asa.

Cook Islands | 25-May-20 | Cook Island Port Authority Website | LON12 ¥046 ETA Rarotonga 06-07 June / Aitutaki 08-09 June | LON16 V066 Arrived Rarotonga 27 May / Aitutaki in coming days.

French Polynesia | 27-May-20 | Agence Maritime de Fare Ute | There are still regular calls of cargo vessels and tankers as per usual planning. Accepting crew member medical debark on a case by case basis such as accidents that happened on board at sea and our ports being the closest port for medical emergency. Crew changes are not possible.

Fiji | 19-May-20 | Fiji Ports | Decrease in number of vessel calling per week. Currently 2 to 3 ships/week down from 5 to 6 vessels/week previously. Container throughput is also down 15% to 20%.

 FSM | 25-May-20 | Mariana Express Line (MEL) Schedule | The East Micronesia Service (EMS) will make calls to Kosrae based on demand during alternate voyages, until August. The Maru South Pacific Service (MSP) service will alter rotation to call LTK - KSA - MAL - LUK - XFS to reduce quarantine period at MAL.

Guam | 22-May-20 | Guam Port Authority | There are no quarantine restrictions assessed to vessels calling the Port of Guam. There are however, policies and guidance addressing circumstances related to COVID-19 situations. The Port of Guam, through much early planning, adapting and implementation, has maintained 100% operational through the period of this pandemic. Crew change is permitted only if it is properly vetted by the USC, DHS and OPHSS. Through recent experience, all arrangements in this regard are facilitated by the vessel agents representing the impacted vessel.

 Marshall Islands | 19-May-20 | Mariana Express Line (MEL) Schedule | The last domestic vessel in Kiritimati (from Tarawa) was in January and the next to arrive is LC Liners, expected next week. LC Liners will be serving Fanning and Tarawa this call. The last tanker to call at Kiritimati was in March. There are no fuel shortages. Goods in short supply includes chicken, vegetables and onions.

New Caledonia | 27-May-20 | Vessel Finder and Radio NZ Pacific | In light of above we have and will continue to review and understand following: 1/ Adherence with quarantine regulations as to R/V /as required to port, maritime health authorities directive with isolation periods, of up to 14 days from previous port. Adjusted toonage, schedules and increased ad hoc port call service to coverage demand. Held vessels at ports to enable transhipment connections. Increased vessel speeds thus ensuring critical cargo arrives with minimal downtime. All our crew undertaking COVID-19 tests at ports and during sea voyages. Purchase of additional PPE. As a contribution to the significant cost associated with above, with immediate effect for cargo originating in Asia, USA, Australia, New Zealand and Fiji into Nauru, will implement a Temporary Quarantine Surcharge (TQS) of USD 349/tea for both dry and reefer and USD 25/RVT break bulk.

Niue | 22-May-20 | Matson Schedule | Island Chief V006 is next scheduled vessel on 28 May. The ship is calling at Niué this month. This schedule may be delayed by a few days, as Island Chief arrive in Rarotonga 27 May.

Papua New Guinea | 27-May-20 | Pacific Forum Line (PFL) | Blank sailing on the MV. Mount Cameroon 209/88 voyage, due to severe reduction in demand associated with the various lockdown restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. All affected cargo from MV. Mount Cameroon 209/88 will be transferred to the Shansi v 209/89. To minimize delays of essential cargo arrival into Papua New Guinea region, vessel operator will severally advance the dates for MV. Shansi 209/88 to minimize delivery delays and gaps as much as possible.

Pitcairn | 25-May-20 | Pitcairn Administrator | The Silver Supporter is currently in Tauranga, New Zealand. The vessel is loading and is expected to sail to Pitcairn in the next two weeks. The vessel is chartered by Pitcairn Island and sails to meet demand.

Solomon Islands | 24-May-20 | Solomon Island Govt | No foreign vessels have departed for Ciroleston due to the high Manu’a demand. Another challenge is no one is able to help a ride on a Manu’a on the boat, thus forcing people to be transported via asa.

ANL Melbourne | 11-May-20 | | Sofrana ANL have introduced a temporary surcharge to cover increased costs due to quarantine requirements in the Solomon Islands. The situation will be monitored constantly and changes will be made as moderately as possible. The latest information that we have received is that the Sofrana Sunve V261 must complete a quarantine period of 6 days following the departure of her previous port before she can berth in Honiara. Normal transit from Rabaul, PNG is less than 2 days, so effectively, we must sit at anchor for over 4 days awaiting clearance to berth the vessel in Honiara. US$350 per 20' / US$600 per 40' / US$15 per m3 Breakbulk.

Please note, although we endeavour to provide you with the most up to date information derived from various third parties and sources, we cannot be held accountable for any inaccuracy in this information. Indication of company’s suitability as a reputable service provider does not imply any business relationship between the supplier and WPF / Logistics Cluster, and is used solely as a determinant of services, and capacities. Logistics Cluster / WPF maintain complete impartiality and are not in a position to endorse, comment on any company’s suitability as a reputable service provider.
Swire has introduced a sliding scale of surcharges for vessels calling to Honiara dependent upon the previous port and length of delay experienced. Charges range from US$163 to US$285 per 20’/ US$326 to US$570 per 40’ and US$15 to US$25 per m3 breakbulk.

The impacts on the Global Blue Economy

UNCTAD produced a booklet on how Asycuda (Automated System for Customs Data) can assist in COVID19 shipping processes


The impacts on the supply chain of key lockdown measures in force and the resumption of economic activity in the near term. Whilst this is positive, we expect economic activity to be reduced in many parts of the network in the medium term. Importantly, Papua New Guinea has removed its quarantine restrictions for arriving cargo vessels, leading to the reinstatement of pre-COVID-19 service levels. Despite this positive development, several quarantine measures remain in effect which continue to disrupt our network.

The OCO is currently assisting the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in response to the Covid-19 pandemic with its Pacific Humanitarian Pathway designed to enable medical and humanitarian relief to flow, we are working in conjunction with the Pacific Islands Development Community on immigration issues as part of this response. These activities will not override national actions but support it.

https://www.ocosec.org/oco-covid-19-information/

COVID-19 situation has continued to escalate globally. Whilst the situation remains fast moving and can change again rapidly in our key markets, it is encouraging that infection rates have continued to fall in several locations within Swire Shipping’s network. This will lead to a reduction in the severity of some lockdown measures in force and the resumption of economic activity in the near term.

The OCO assist in Pacific Humanitarian Pathway

Oceania Customs Organisation Secretariat

General Update | Date | Source | Details
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Swire COVID19 Advisory Notice #7 | 08-May-20 | | The COVID-19 situation has continued to escalate globally. Whilst the situation remains fast moving and can change again rapidly in our key markets, it is encouraging that infection rates have continued to fall in several locations within Swire Shipping’s network. This will lead to a reduction in the severity of some lockdown measures in force and the resumption of economic activity in the near term. Whilst this is positive, we expect economic activity to be reduced in many parts of the network in the medium term. Importantly, Papua New Guinea has removed its quarantine restrictions for arriving cargo vessels, leading to the reinstatement of pre-COVID-19 service levels. Despite this positive development, several quarantine measures remain in effect which continue to disrupt our network.

Includes Circular for Safe Crew Change

New Circular: Preparing for post COVID-19 operations: considerations and practicaties for port community systems, single window and other electronic exchange platforms

http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx

ICES-19 Guidance and press release about crew change crisis

Includes Circular for Safe Crew Change

International Chamber of Shipping (ICS)


International Shipping News

JOC Newsletter

Container lines take tentative steps to restore capacity. A small number of sailings have been reinstated on the trans-Pacific and Asia-Med trades as economies take their first small steps towards reopening and carriers try to get the supply-demand balance right.

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Maritime Traffic vessel tracking Pacific

Vessels calling to Santo will now call to Port Vila first for a health check for crew

Neptune Pacific Australia

Neptune Pacific & PDL services are returning to a more settled pattern since the initial disruptions caused by COVID19.

https://www.ics-shipping.org/docs/default-source/resources/coronavirus-(covid-19)-guidance-for-ship-operators-for-the-protection-of-the-health-of-
humanitarian-disaster.pdf?sfvrsn=6

We hope to resume cargo voyages in July or August of this year. We will keep everyone updated by group email when we open our ordering period up. For now, please do not send in any orders or requests for quotes. We look forward to serving Kiribati and the Northern Cooks again, just as soon as we are able. We plan to continue our vigorous Virus-free protocols as long as needed to ensure we can come serve you again.

Swire

Oceania Customs Organisation Secretariat

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humanitarian-disaster.

UNCITRAL COVID19 Publications for shipping

UNGC2020262_en.pdf

UNCITAD produced a booklet on how Asycuda (Automated System for Customs Data) can assist in COVID19 shipping processes


http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx