Shipment Operations
updated 10 June 2020
If you have any updates to share, please email them to: madeline.habili@wfp.org

This weekly bulletin is compiled to give all stakeholders an overview of the current impact of COVID-19 on Pacific shipping activities. It draws on sources from government, commercial and humanitarian sectors. The bulletin is circulated each Wednesday.

**Overview**

Shipping companies continue to report 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. Neptune Pacific has introduced a freight tariff increase on the NZ-Fiji and Australia - Fiji services. The effect of the restrictions on their Asia to Fij i routes. Temporary COVID19 surcharges have been introduced by some shipping companies operating in Solomon Islands and Nauru.

Shipping restrictions are still more pronounced in the three main Pacific markets for shipping to and from the region. All additional shipping restrictions and changes are on-going and will have implications for the movement of goods for the months ahead. This will be updated as changes occur.

**State / Territory**

**Source**

**Details**

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**Cook Islands**

09-Jun-20

Cook Island Port Authority FB

*Updated 20 May 2020*

Departed Rarotonga Sunday 7 June ETA Aitutaki Monday 8 June

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**Fiji**

09-Jun-20

Fiji Sun - Repatriation of Fijian seafarers

*Updated 12 May 2020 v3*

12 Fijians, who were stranded overseas due to COVID-19 pandemic, finally returned home yesterday on a flight from Manila, Philippines. These included Fijian workers onboard the Pacific Lady cruise ship.

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**Marshall Islands**

09-Jun-20

Update Interim Health Travel Advisory and Restrictions Issuance 14

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**Nauru**

06-Jun-20

Nauru Maritime and Port Authority PDL Schedule

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**Nepal**

09-Jun-20

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**New Zealand**

10-Jun-20

Port of Auckland COVID-19 Operational Update

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**Niu**

09-Jun-20

Swire / Matson Schedules

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**Palau**

09-Jun-20

Palau Ministry of Health Status

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**Papua New Guinea**

10-Jun-20

Swire Schedules

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**Pitcairn**

10-Jun-20

Pitcairn Administrator / Marine Traffic

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**Samoa**

13-Jun-20

Government of Samoa FB State of Emergency

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**Solomon Islands**

31-May-20

Swire Notice

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**Tokelau**

10-Jun-20

Govt of Tokelau Dept of Transport and Support Services FB

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Tonga | 20-May-20 | [Port Authority Tonga](https://www.portauthoritytonga.org/) | All crew are subject to medical screening before arrival in port. The COVID-19 procedures are now working smoothly. There has not been a significant reduction in cargo. Building materials for TC Harold reconstruction are arriving from New Zealand.


Vanuatu | 04-Jun-20 | [Health Technical Advisory Group: Recommendations On Measures To Prevent, Contain And Respond To COVID-19 In Vanuatu](https://www.who.int/teams/phe-africa) | Fumigation of cargo of overseas origin should be conducted in line with standards and requirements of the Department of Biosecurity and should be released based on their advice. Additional disinfection and quarantine of cargo for the specific purpose of COVID-19 prevention is not necessary. Standard border screening and quarantining should apply to incoming crew of international cargo vessels. Crew members originating from overseas destinations should be placed in temporary quarantine for the full duration of their stay in Vanuatu if less than 14 days. Crew members originating from Vanuatu are required to wear PPE (see Appendix 6 PPE guidelines) at all stages where within 1 meter of passengers originating from overseas destinations. If all recommendations for PPE and physical distancing are adhered to, then the quarantine requirement may be waived.


Wallis and Futuna | 06-Jun-20 | Marine Traffic vessel tracking | The route to Le Laperouse is no longer acting as a quarantine vessel in Wallis and Futuna. She is enroute to Noumea.

**Shipping Line** | **Date** | **Source** | **Details**
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Mariana Express Lines (MELL) | 20-May-20 | MELL Schedule | MELL vessels serving Solomon Islands and PNG will now call Honiara, 5th before Lae, PNG to accommodate quarantine restrictions. Vessels will schedule 5 days at anchor before discharge for each call in Honiara. The Micronesia Express service will omit the port of Shelok until further notice owing to the 2019-ncov issue. The Micronesia Express will make calls to Yap and Majuro based on an enhancement during May and June.

Neptune Pacific | 02-Jun-20 | Neptune Pacific Australia | While the reduction in the number of sailings, coupled with the lower fuel price is making a material difference in operating costs, we also need to implement a modest rate increase on the NZ – Fiji and Australia – Fiji services. The net impact is that the current freight costs applicable in May and June will have a net increase of US$100/TEU effective from the Kokopo Chief V25 sailing from Melbourne on the 5th July and the Captainau Tanase V22 sailing from Tuvalu on the 3rd July 2020. [https://www.neptune-pacific.com/news/2-current-news/](https://www.neptune-pacific.com/news/2-current-news/)

Pacific Direct Line (PDL) | 04-Jun-20 | PDL NZ | There is a notable downturn in demand particularly for Cook Islands and French Polynesia where the economies are heavily dependent on the tourism industry. Not only is the tourism industry shut down, there are simply less consumers as the tourist population is removed from the market. Vanuatu has not yet experienced such an obvious down turn in demand, but that may be due to TC Harold response and reconstruction cargo adding to the cargo volume.

PDL Trade Notice | 02-Jun-20 | PDL Trade Notice | The New Zealand-Fiji feeder service will be reduced from four sailings per month to three, and the Australia-Fiji service will continue to operate on an 18 day frequency. Our objective is to maintain the highest service levels possible while reducing operating costs necessary to ensure that we are able to provide an economically sustainable service over the medium term.

PDL Trade Notice | 29-May-20 | PDL Trade Notice | The impact to supply-chains over the past weeks as a result of covid-19 related restrictions has created immobilisation and shortage of certain equipment types with cargo owners having reduced ability to access, handle and distribute their goods. As a result, with effect from 01st June 2020 we will suspend the release of 20’dry High Cube equipment for the following destinations; Federated States of Micronesia, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papeete, Wallis & Futuna. 40’ High Cube equipment and all other equipment types will continue to be available for supply.

Swire | 08-Jun-20 | [Swire News (Website)](https://www.swire.com/) | After a long period of declining ocean freight rates and escalating operating costs, Swire Shipping is required to implement a rate restoration to Fiji in order to maintain our existing frequency and port coverage. From: North Asia: China, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. Southeast Asia: Indonesia, Cambodia, Myanmar, Malaysia, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The Gulf and South Asia: The UAE, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia. To: Suva and Lautoka. Rate Restoration Quantum 20’ FCL: US$ 150 40’ FCL: US$ 300 Break bulk: US$ 8.50 per revenue ton.

Swire | 02-Jun-20 | Swire NZ | East South East Asia (ESEA) Schedule: Reduction in vessels on the route from 4 to 3 on a 20 day rotation. This schedule calls several ports in PNG, Fiji and NZ.

**General Update** | **Date** | **Source** | **Details**
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Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Accelerating Digitalisation of maritime trade and logistics | 05-Jun-20 | [International Chamber of Shipping (ICS)](https://www.bcg.com) | The impact to supply-chains over the past weeks as a result of covid-19 related restrictions has created immobilisation and shortage of certain equipment types with cargo owners having reduced ability to access, handle and distribute their goods. As a result, with effect from 01st June 2020 we will suspend the release of 20’dry High Cube equipment for the following destinations; Federated States of Micronesia, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papeete, Wallis & Futuna. 40’ High Cube equipment and all other equipment types will continue to be available for supply.

ECO COVID-19 crew change crisis | 03-Jun-20 | [International Chamber of Shipping (ICS)](https://www.bcg.com) | The impact to supply-chains over the past weeks as a result of covid-19 related restrictions has created immobilisation and shortage of certain equipment types with cargo owners having reduced ability to access, handle and distribute their goods. As a result, with effect from 01st June 2020 we will suspend the release of 20’dry High Cube equipment for the following destinations; Federated States of Micronesia, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papeete, Wallis & Futuna. 40’ High Cube equipment and all other equipment types will continue to be available for supply.


Fisheries Observers | 02-Jun-20 | Radio NZ Pacific | Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the total fisheries observer coverage on all purse-seine vessels fishing in Pacific waters is suspended until 31 July. The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) approved the extension of the measure which was supposed to have ended on 31 May. In March, Pacific fisheries officials allowed purse-seine vessel owners and fishing companies operating in the Pacific to continue fishing without observers to avoid disruption in operation as a result of the coronavirus.

International Shipping News | 04-Jun-20 | [SeaTrade Maritime News](https://www.seatrade-maritime.com) | The inactive container shipping fleet has reached an all time high of 11.6% of the fleet in capacity terms at the end of May, according to analyst Alphaliner. The idle containership fleet stood at 2.72m teu as of 25 May, or 11.6% of capacity, due to a combination of blank sailings to mitigate the impact of lower demand from the Covid-19 pandemic and vessels taken out of service for scrubber retrofits.