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If you have any updates to share, please email them to: madeleine.habib@wfp.org

Shipping Operations updated 6 August 2020

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 Thursday.

Overview

Matson NZ have announced a return to their three-vessel schedule with an eleven day frequency, commencing August 14. Matson had temporarily reduced services due to the impact of COVID19.

The latest 14 day lock-down in Port Moresby, PNG is not expected to have a major impact on shipping operations.

The Nauru Maritime and Port Authority introduced the new Nauru Shipping Line on 24 July. It is due to commence services in August.

Difficulties in facilitating crew change continue to be one of the most pressing issues facing the global shipping industry. This has generated additional complications and costs for shipping companies. Limited crew changes are being conducted in Fiji and New Zealand. Globally there is a huge back-log of ships' crew who have either completed their contracts on board or are onshore waiting to join ships.

No PICTs are currently reporting food security issues, or fuel shortages due to interrupted shipping supply, as far as we are aware.

State / Territory	Date	Source	Details
American Samoa	13-Jul-20	Samoan Shipping Corporation FB	Cargo trips between Apia and Pago Pago increased to two voyages per week from 16 July. <i>MV Fatu-O-Samoa</i> sails between the two islands for cargo only.
	28-Jul-20	Neptune Pacific Australia	Neptune Pacific Line (NPL) wishes to advise that following various schedule delays linked to Covid 19, port congestion and labour availability that the <i>Kokopo Chief</i> v25 will now commence her voyage in Melbourne on 16th July. ETA Pago Pago 08 August. This voyage services Fiji, Vanuatu and American Samoa.
Cook Islands	30-Jun-20	Cook Islands Port Authority	Rarotonga and Aitutaki continue to receive 2 international cargo vessels per month with steady cargo volumes. Outer islands are well serviced by the domestic fleet. <i>Kwai's</i> voyage to the northern group from Hawai'i has been declined by the border agencies and the Ministry of Transport due to COVID19. Cook Islands will keep their borders closed until at least 30 September.
Fiji	23-Jul-20	Fiji Ports/ Ministry of Health	Crew change is permitted on a case by case basis. Approval must be granted by the Prime Minister's Office. Cargo volumes have dropped by 11 to 15% compared to last year. Cargo vessel calls are down from an average of 26-28/month to 22-25/month. (June figures)
	06-Jul-20	PDL Trade Notice/ Neptune Pacific Schedule	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. <i>Capitaine Dampier</i> - alternate sailings are blanked at least until end of August.
	29-Jul-20	Radio NZ Pacific	There are 15 boats anchored outside the Port Denarau Marina in Nadi awaiting the end of their 14-day quarantine at sea before being allowed through the Blue Lanes. The first yacht under the Fiji government's "Blue Lane" initiative has arrived in the country. The FBC reported two New Zealanders were on-board the vessel which berthed at the Port Denarau Marina in Nadi - the official port for the Blue Lane. This is the first foreign vessel permitted entry into Fiji since Covid-19 restrictions have been in place since March. Fiji's Tourism Minister Faiyaz Koya said 26 yachts have been approved to enter Fiji.
	08-Jun-20	Swire News (Website)	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
French Polynesia	05-Aug-20	Radio NZ Pacific	French Polynesian cruise ship returns to Papeete port after passenger self tests positive for COVID19. https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/422732/remaining-tahiti-cruise-ship-covid-19-tests-all-negative
FSM	22-Jul-20	Mariana Express Line (MELL) Schedule	The East Micronesia Service (EMS) will make calls to Kosrae based on inducement on alternate voyages, until the end of the year. The Majuro South Pacific Service (MSP) service has resumed the regular rotation to call LTK - MAJ - KSA - PNI, now that Marshall Island quarantine restrictions have eased.
Kiribati	04-Aug-20	PDL Schedule	<i>Capitaine Quiros</i> V088N called to Kiritimati (Christmas) Island from 27 July to 03 August. <i>Capitaine Quiros</i> V089N ETA Kiritimati (Christmas) Island 22 October.
	22-Jul-20	Mariana Express Line (MELL) Schedule	MELL will omit Tarawa from Majuro South Pacific (MSP) schedule until March 2021.
	23-Jun-20	Kiribati Department of Health	Foreign vessels at seaports - only cargo ships and tankers allowed to enter, provided they are clear in line with relevant documents provided for verification to enter. Cargo ships and tankers should spend at least 5 days at high seas or outside our ports, before entry. Strict SOPs are to be implemented and followed at ports, e-communications to be followed, and no crew shore leave at all. Containers are to be disinfected at ports and to be released provided the consignments have been sealed in containers for more than 5 days before reaching Kiribati ports.
Marshall Islands	30-Jul-20	RMI Updated Interim Health and Travel Advisory	To make sure that we can allow food and supplies to enter the country, all container vessels and fuel tankers are exempt but are strictly required to spend 14 days outside of the RMI after departure and prior to arrival at the RMI pilot station. All container vessels and fuel tankers that have a history of entering RMI ports that have the same crewmembers on board as verified by MOHHS and immigration are exempt from the 14-day quarantine. For vessels that have changed crews, new crew members must show 21 days of consistent health checks prior to arrival and those new crewmembers with valid negative test results must have consistent health checks along with other existing crew prior to arrival in the Marshall Islands. Vessels with newer crewmembers, with fewer days on board will be required to complete the 14 days at sea prior to entry and cargo operations. All container vessels and fuel tankers must adhere to the National Disaster Committee approved Standard Operating Procedures - Maritime (SOP). Human to human contact is strictly prohibited.
	16-Jun-20	Kyowa Shipping	Cruise ships, including live aboard vessels and yachts are suspended from visiting RMI until further notice. Vessels can't enter Majuro port after 14-days since calling at an infected country. In our current rotation, Guam and Japan are infected countries. Usually our vessel calls Japan- Guam-FSM, RMI. But to avoid waiting time, we put some additional port (Yap & Koror).
	09-Jul-20	Mariana Express Line (MELL) Schedule	The Majuro South Pacific Service (MSP) service has resumed the regular rotation to call LTK - MAJ - KSA - PNI, now that Marshall Island quarantine restrictions have eased.
Nauru	01-Aug-20	Neptune Pacific	<i>Capitaine Quiros</i> V88N Nauru ETA 21 August
	03-Aug-20	Nauru Shipping Line	Nauru Shipping Line is a newly established business incorporated in June 2020 with main service aimed at providing a shipping service between Suva-Nauru-Suva route on a regular (fortnightly) basis and offering competitive sea freight rates. The first NSL voyage is scheduled to launch in late August 2020 to commence its first rotation route between Suva-Nauru-Suva. NSL will initially be chartering one (1) landing craft vessel (<i>Kiwai Chief</i>) to provide this service. The vessel allows a total cargo carrying capacity of 76 twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) at no more than 25t weight per TEU.
	14-Jul-20	Neptune Pacific Line(NPL) Trade Notice	Nauru - Removal of Temporary Quarantine Surcharge (TQS) The temporary quarantine surcharge of USD 349/teu announced on 22nd April will be suspended, effective on cargo loading on the <i>Capitaine Quiros</i> V88N.
New Caledonia	28-Jul-20	Kenua Shipping Agency	Slight decrease in volumes of imports/exports, but nickel export keeps the market stable. Number of vessel calls remains stable. Crew change is permitted, but is limited by available seats and destinations of flights to and from New Caledonia. Border closure has been extended until 24 October.
New Zealand	01-Aug-20	Radio NZ Pacific	International yacht crews request safe haven in New Zealand during cyclone season https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/422509/stranded-boaties-in-dire-situation-appeal-for-new-zealand-s-help
	13-Jul-20	Wilhelmsen Website	Crew change guidelines for New Zealand https://www.wilhelmsen.com/ships-agency/campaigns/coronavirus/COVID19-Crew-Change/nz-crew-change-requirements/
Niue	06-Aug-20	Matson Schedule	Matson Shipping is servicing Niue monthly. <i>Olamana</i> replaces <i>Island Chief</i> on 3 August. <i>Olamana</i> V122 will call to Niue ETA 23 August
Papua New Guinea	28-Jul-20	PNG Ports Corporation	The current 14 day lockdown enforced in Port Moresby will not impact on shipping activities. Essential workers will maintain the normal level of activity within the port. Port Moresby is reporting normal levels of shipping activity and is not experiencing congestion due to COVID19. Crew change and shore leave are not permitted in PNG. The Port of Lae is not reporting any congestion caused by COVID19. Vessels are not currently required to quarantine before entering port. Cargo volumes and vessel calls are down slightly compared to 2019 due to a number of factors including availability of foreign exchange. Also volumes were down slightly pre-COVID-19, so decline cannot be solely attributed to COVID-19.
Samoa	13-Jul-20	Samoan Shipping Corporation FB	Cargo trips between Apia and Pago Pago increased to two voyages per week from 16 July. <i>MV Fatu-O-Samoa</i> sails between the two islands for cargo only.

State / Territory	Date	Source	Details
Solomon Islands	14-Jul-20	Tradco Shipping Agent	The situation continues to be the same whereby we apply for exemptions to the committee in the time frame given for each incoming vessel and wait for them to approve/decline dependent on the information we provide. We are receiving exemptions for ships from PNG to berth earlier than 5 days.
	14-May-20	Solomon Island Govt Sea cargo clearance protocol. Updated 12 May 2020 v3	Foreign Cargo Vessel Quarantine Period: Fourteen (14) clear days at sea or a combination at sea and at anchor in the Solomon Islands UNLESS (a) If the last port of call is from a country designated in Tier 1 – Five (5) clear days OR (b) If the last port of call is from a country designated in Tier 2 – Nine (9) clear days OR (c) If the last port of call is from a country designated in Tier 3 – Fourteen (14) clear days TIER 1. 5 DAYS - PAPUA NEW GUINEA FIJI NEW CALEDONIA VANUATA NAURU TONGA KIRIBATI TUVALU TIER 2. 9 DAYS - AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND SOUTH KOREA TIER 3. 14 DAYS - CHINA HONG KONG (SAR) MACAU (SAR) CHINESE TAIPEI JAPAN SINGAPORE MALAYSIA THAILAND INDONESIA PHILIPPINES ITALY UNITED KINGDOM USA SPAIN Shipping Agents for Category 1, 2, or 3 vessels may apply to the Exemptions Committee for consideration for clearance less than the stipulated number of days under that tier. Such applications will only be considered based upon the urgency of need for those goods.
Tuvalu	06-Aug-20	PDL Schedule/ Marine and Port Services Tuvalu	To ensure all cargo booked to Central Pacific ports is delivered in August, Capitaine Wallis schedule will be adjusted as follows. <i>Capitaine Wallis</i> V356 ETA Funafuti 12 August. <i>Capitaine Wallis</i> V357 ETA Funafuti 27 August. <i>Capitaine Wallis</i> V358 ETA Funafuti 17 September. The quarantine period has been reduced from 9 days to 3 days (held in the harbour) for cargo landed in Funafuti.
Wallis and Futuna	06-Aug-20	PDL Schedule	<i>Capitaine Wallis</i> V 355 Wallis and Futuna 04 to 07 August.
Shipping Lines			
	Date	Source	Details
Kyowa Shipping	14-Jul-20	Kyowa Shipping	While the cargo ex China appears to be gradually recovering, it is expected that there will be a huge drop in the car transportation sector.
Mariana Express Lines (MELL)	06-Jul-20	MELL Schedule	THE Majuro South Pacific (MSP) service will alter rotation to call LTK - KSA - MAJ - PNI to shorten the quarantine period at Majuro. MELL vessels servicing Solomon Islands and PNG will now call Honiara, SI before Lae, PNG to accommodate quarantine restrictions. Vessels will schedule 3 days at anchor before discharge for each call in Honiara. The Micronesia Express service will omit the port of Shekou until further notice owing to the 2019-nCoV issue. The East Micronesia Service (EMS) will make calls to Kosrae based on inducement on alternate voyages until the end of the year.
Matson	30-Jul-20	Matson	NZX Sailing Schedule Adjustment – Return to Three Vessel Service: With New Zealand at Alert Level 1 and the South Pacific Island Nations we serve primarily COVID-19 free, Matson will return to a three vessel NZX service starting on 14 August. Departures from Auckland will be every 11 days starting with the Island Chief 008.
Neptune Pacific	31-Jul-20	Neptune Pacific Trade Notice	<i>Southern Maana</i> V025 will commence in Sydney on 11 August due to bad weather and port congestion. This AUSPAC service services Fiji, Vanuatu, Noumea, Tonga and Samoas.
	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 Capitaine Tasman V32 sailing from Tauranga on the 3rd July 2020. https://www.neptunepacific.com/news-2/current-news/
	14-Jul-20	Neptune Pacific Line(NPL) Trade Notice	Nauru - Removal of Temporary Quarantine Surcharge (TQS) The temporary quarantine surcharge of USD 349/teu announced on 22nd April will be suspended, effective on cargo loading on the Capitaine Quiros V88N.
Pacific Direct Line (PDL)	16-Jun-20	PDL Trade Notice	Freight rates from Asia to the Pacific Islands have been declining to unsustainable levels and require an adjustment to ensure the continuation of our regular shipping services on this trades. A Rate Restoration of USD 100 per teu from Asia to all Pacific Island ports for all cargo shipped on board from Asia on or after 15th of July 2020.
	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.
Swire	08-Jun-20	Swire News (Website)	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\$ 300Break-bulk: US\$ 8.50 per revenue ton
	02-Jun-20	Swire NZ	East South East Asia (ESAE) 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
Wilhelmsen	05-Aug-20	Wilhelmsen Website	Updates on national requirements for crew change. This list does not yet include any Pacific nations other than New Zealand and some Australian ports. https://wilhelmsen.com/ships-agency/campaigns/coronavirus/COVID19-Crew-Change/ COVID19 testing facilities, map updated daily https://wilhelmsen.com/ships-agency/campaigns/coronavirus/coronavirus-map/
General Update			
	Date	Source	Details
International Maritime Virtual Summit of Crew Change	13-Jul-20	International Maritime Organisation (IMO)	During the Summit, 13 Governments from across the world, i.e. Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States, agreed to a Joint statement of the international maritime virtual summit on crew changes, set out in the annex, expressing their appreciation to seafarers and pledging to urgently resolve issues concerning them that have arisen due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Director-General of ILO supported the outcome of the Summit. http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Documents/COVID%20CL%204204%20adds/Circular%20Letter%20No.4204-Add.24%20-%20Coronavirus%20(Covid-19)%20-%20Outcome%20of%20The%20International%20MaritimeVirtual%20Summit%20on%20Crew%20Change.pdf
AMSA receive complaints about Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) breaches	04-Aug-20	Seatrade-Maritime/AMSA	Australian authorities say they have received a large number of complaints related to the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) since issuing a notice on the maximum period shipboard service for seafarers in a pandemic on 26 June. https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/regulation/amsa-receives-large-number-mlc-complaints?NL=ST-001&Issue=ST-001_20200803_ST-001_479&sfvc4news=42&cl=article_2&utm_campaign=STRADE_News_Seatrade%20Maritime%20News%20Daily%20Headlines_News_NL_08032020_899&utm_emailname=STRADE_News_Seatrade%20Maritime%20News%20Daily%20Headlines_News_NL_08032020_899&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua&utm_MDMContactID=84d689ad-3ed9-40a2-a532-3246d2ebf56c&utm_campaigntype=Newsletter&utm_sub=Seatrade%20Maritime%20Daily%20News&eM=cbcf287077d21f9a06f4a53fe0a48eae623ce39b59619fde06718cbb9731642e&eventSeriesCode=ES_SEATRDMTMTCNT&eventEditionCode=MTM005SRC&sessionCode=S_STRDMTMNEWS
Outcome of surveys on health protection measures on board ships in response to COVID-19	24-Jul-20	International Maritime Organisation (IMO)	http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Documents/COVID%20CL%204204%20adds/Circular%20Letter%20No.4204-Add.25%20-%20Coronavirus%20(Covid-19)%20-%20Outcome%20of%20Surveys%20By%20cs%20And%20If%20OnHealth%20Protection%20Measures.pdf