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If you have any updates to share, please email them to: [madeleine.habib@wfp.org](mailto:madeleine.habib@wfp.org)

Shipping Operations updated 3 September 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**

Nauru Shipping Line (NSL) has been formally launched.

Swire Shipping is applying a restoration rate for cargo from Australia to Fiji.

Solomon Island Government issued an advisory on cargo vessels and marine tankers travelling from PNG ports to Solomon Islands. The advisory outlines increased restrictions due to increased COVID19 cases in PNG, particularly in Port Moresby.

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	August Update	American Samoa Port Administration	The maritime borders are only open to cargo, tankers, and fishing vessels that support the local tuna canneries. Cargo and stevedoring operations continue, with vessel crews having minimal-to-no contact with local clearance parties and stevedoring crews. The Port of Pago Pago has adopted a No-Contact policy for all vessel clearances however, Harbor Pilots continue to board and guide vessels into port but under strict health and safety rules/procedures for both the pilots and crews. Public Health monitors the stevedoring and Pilots on a continuous basis. Cargo volumes remained steady in the beginning of the year during the onset of COVID-19 and in this past quarter, the Port experienced a 15-per cent increase in cargo/container volume. This can be attributed to the increase in spending power from the recent distribution of U.S. stimulus funds, whereas local businesses, shops and stores are ordering more to keep up with demand. With the increase of containerized volume, the container yard has reached its capacity and excess empties are being stored off site. The challenge with that is the ability to get the empties back to port and loaded onto outgoing ships. Our preliminary forecasts indicate that the volume will level off by the end of the year but given the situation with COVID-19 and how it is affecting the global market and supply chains, there's just no way to predict. The local Longline and Purse Seine Fishing Fleet have been challenged by the closure of the borders given a lack of flexibility to fly in personnel for crew changes.
CNMI	August Update	CNMI Port Authority	The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), Port of Saipan has seen a gradual decrease in both inbound and outbound cargoes. The Port is seeing a decrease in incoming commodities, especially the construction materials. The impact of COVID-19 has reduced inbound containers as well as commercial vessels calling on Port of Saipan by almost 40 per cent for May 2020 compared to April 2020. In terms of port operations, it has reduced activity compared to the last fiscal year where at times the Port was very congested with vessels calling the Port of Saipan. At this present time, the operation or activity at the port runs very smoothly.
Cook Islands	26-Aug-20	Cook Islands Port Authority	We continue to maintain 2 international cargo vessels a month servicing Rarotonga and Aitutaki. The shipping schedule remains the same no changes just <i>Island Chief</i> is been replaced by <i>Olomana</i> . Although cargo reduction is slowly reducing we continue to receive and maintain our averaging cargo imported. Tankers schedules is now stretched out 2-3 month intervals. Domestic shipping is uninterrupted. Taio Shippings domestic vessels <i>Grinna</i> and <i>Lady Moana</i> have just recently arrived back servicing the Northern Cooks last week. Then <i>Lady Moana</i> headed back for Pukapuka and Nassau after a quick trip Atiu and is due to arrive 29 August. <i>Grinna</i> will arrive Mangaia on Thursday.
Fiji	28-Aug-20	Radio NZ Pacific	Boat owners allowed to enter Fiji's Blue Lanes are urging other countries to adopt a similar initiative amid the Covid-19 pandemic. <a href="https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/424644/boats-in-fiji-s-blue-lanes-ponder-next-move-as-cyclone-season-looms">https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/424644/boats-in-fiji-s-blue-lanes-ponder-next-move-as-cyclone-season-looms</a>
	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.
	31-Aug-20	Swire Rate Restoration Notice	The arrival of COVID-19 this year has impacted international trade and diminished cargo flows across the Pacific and globally. While Swire Shipping has experienced a long period of declining ocean freight rates and escalating operating costs, we have not reduced our capacity as we recognise that our customers in Fiji rely on a regular and reliable shipping service. Swire Shipping is required to apply the following rate restoration from Australia to Fiji. Effective: Kokopo Chief v027N Rate Restoration- 20' FCL: US\$ 125 40' FCL: US\$ 250 Break-bulk: US\$ 7.25 per revenue ton
FSM	04-Aug-20	Government of FSM	Comprehensive guidelines for COVID19 management including points of entry procedures <a href="https://fsmgov.org/fsmun/pubheal20.pdf">https://fsmgov.org/fsmun/pubheal20.pdf</a>
	01-Sep-20	Mariana Express Line (MELL) Schedule	The East Micronesia Service (EMS) will make calls to Kosrae based on inducement on all 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.
Guam	01-Sep-20	Port of Guam	Port of Guam is providing regular COVID19 related updates via this link. <a href="https://portofguam.com/covid-19-guidelines-and-information">https://portofguam.com/covid-19-guidelines-and-information</a>
	11-Aug-20	Wilhelmsen Website	Crew Change - For crew staying for less than 5 days stay in Guam, they will not need to undergo quarantine or testing if they originate from low-risk area. - For crew that stay for more than 5 days in Guam, they will need to take the test 5 days prior to arrival in Guam or on the 5th day after arrival, they will need to self-quarantine for 14 days. If arriving from low-risk area, crew must have a negative test report within 5 days prior to arrival, or be tested on the 5th day and adhere to daily symptom monitoring, social distancing, face covering and hand-washing etiquette for up to 14 days or departure from Guam. If arriving from a Non-Low risk area, must have negative test 5 days prior to arrival, and must self-quarantine up to 14 days or until departure from Guam. - All people are required to fill out a Health Declaration form to be submitted at the DPHSS processing station. Those who are subject to quarantine restrictions are required to sign a voluntary quarantine acknowledgement and any persons who refuse to sign will be subject to involuntary quarantine.
Kiribati	26-Aug-20	PDL Schedule	<i>Capitaine Quiros</i> V089N ETA Kiribati (Christmas) Island 25 October.
	27-Aug-20	Mariana Express Line (MELL) Schedule	MELL will omit Tarawa from Majuro South Pacific (MSP) schedule until March 2021.
	19-Aug-20	Kiribati Port Authority/ 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. The cargo movements to the outer islands is not affected by the Government's health travel advisory. The local vessels continue to serve the outer islands as normal.
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. Cruise ships, including live aboard vessels and yachts are suspended from visiting RMI until further notice.
	31-Aug-20	Radio NZ Pacific	Covid drives Marshall Islands fisheries revenue down <a href="https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/424730/covid-drives-marshall-islands-fisheries-revenue-down">https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/424730/covid-drives-marshall-islands-fisheries-revenue-down</a>
	14-Aug-20	Kyowa Shipping	The '14 days since previous port' condition is now only imposed if there has been a crew change since the previous call to Marshall Islands.
	01-Sep-20	Nauru Bulletin/NSL FB page	Nauru Shipping Line (NSL) has been formally launched. NSL has entered into a 12 month fixed rate contract with Swire Shipping Agencies. NSL currently has a vessel on short-term charter, and is due to acquire a purpose-built, 82m with the capacity to carry 108 containers. <i>Kiwi</i> V001 is scheduled to arrive in Nauru from Suva on 08 September.
	02-Sep-20	PDL Schedule	<i>Capitaine Quiros</i> V88N currently at Nauru ETD 02 September

Nauru	25-Aug-20	Government of Nauru COVID19 Update	Flights and ships continue their weekly and monthly schedules to and from Nauru. Cargo freighter flights routinely operate every Fridays and Saturdays to bring in food and medical supplies. The cargo ship Capitaine Quiros arrived 24 August and its crew tested on board for COVID-19 before cargo is off loaded.
	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.
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	29-Aug-20	Port of Auckland	Port of Auckland maintains testing regime for workers. <a href="https://www.poa.co.nz/our-response-to-covid-19">https://www.poa.co.nz/our-response-to-covid-19</a> The port of Auckland is an essential service and we will keep Auckland's freight moving in Level 3. We are re-implementing the controls we had in place at Alert Level 3. As a border organisation, it is critical we protect our staff and our maritime border, and we need to remain aware of the potential risks we face. We are a gateway to the world, which is still in the midst of a pandemic. <a href="https://www.poa.co.nz/our-response-to-covid-19">https://www.poa.co.nz/our-response-to-covid-19</a>
	14-Jul-20	Wilhelmsen Website	Crew change guidelines for New Zealand <a href="https://www.wilhelmsen.com/ships-agency/campaigns/coronavirus/COVID19-Crew-Change/nz-crew-change-requirements/">https://www.wilhelmsen.com/ships-agency/campaigns/coronavirus/COVID19-Crew-Change/nz-crew-change-requirements/</a>
Niue	01-Sep-20	Matson Agent	Shipping to Niue is still on schedule and no major impact from COVID-19. The Olomana V122 brought the majority of our cargo for this month and the Island Chief V008 the balance of the cargo. Shops still selling our normal foodstuffs and airfreighting any products that are short supply. Fresh Fruits and Vegetables still coming by air freight each week when required and importantly our Health Department Medical supplies. The next call of the Island Chief V009 is now eta 30/09/20.
Papua New Guinea	28-Jul-20	PNG Ports Corporation	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.
Solomon Islands	28-Aug-20	Solomon Islands Government	Issued an advisory on cargo vessels and marine tankers travelling from PNG ports to Solomon Islands. The advisory outlines increased restrictions due to increased COVID19 cases in PNG, particularly in Port Moresby. See advisory (linked below) for full details. <a href="https://www.customs.gov.sb/files/VESSEL%20TRAVEL%20ADVISORY%20FOR%20PNG.pdf">https://www.customs.gov.sb/files/VESSEL%20TRAVEL%20ADVISORY%20FOR%20PNG.pdf</a>
	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 and 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.
Tokelau	28-Aug-20	Government of Tokelau	<i>Fasefulu</i> V55 For cargo only Depart Apia 02 September - Nukunonu/Apia ETA 06 September
Tonga	10-Aug-20	PDL Trade Notice	<i>Capitaine Dampier</i> V169 calling Nuku'alofa. We wish to advise that we will be closely monitoring cargo flows on this trade and ensuring that we match supply with demand by introducing Nuku'alofa calls on the <i>Capitaine Dampier</i> as the trade requires and continuing to provide premium transit times. For this reason we also have <i>Capitaine Dampier</i> V171 scheduled to call Nuku'alofa in support of Southern Trader V481.
Tuvalu	12-Aug-20	Marine and Port Services Tuvalu	The 3 day quarantine period is still enforced and no change so far. As for the cargo vessel, there is only one container vessel bringing cargoes to Tuvalu and that is the <i>Captain Wallis</i> . There is no other cargo vessel apart from <i>Captain Wallis</i> bringing cargoes to Tuvalu unless chartered boats (Tug/Barge) which brings project materials to Tuvalu. The turnaround time for the Container vessel usually takes 3-4 weeks. Until now, there is no change in volume of cargo which could be attributed to the impact of COVID19.
	17-Aug-20	DevPolicy - Repatriation	Part of Tuvalu's overall COVID-19 health security strategy has been to facilitate and indeed encourage voluntary migration from the capital to the outer islands. With repatriation due to occur, the national government is ensuring those in the capital who wish to relocate to the relative safety of the outer islands can do so. Two boats, Nivaga III and Te Mataili II, have been scheduled to run from the capital to the outer islands between 10-23 August and 14-27 September to facilitate this internal movement and also to deliver food supplies to the outer islands. Tuvalu's maritime borders will open briefly to allow a Taiwanese navy boat to enter Funafuti lagoon, expected on 20 August, to repatriate Taiwanese and Japanese citizens who have been in Tuvalu since the borders closed. The three Taiwanese and two Japanese passengers will be transported by boat from the port to the Taiwanese vessel, which will not dock and will immediately leave for Taiwan. A number of New Zealand citizens currently in Tuvalu are seeking to return to New Zealand on the flight that brings in the RSE workers.
Vanuatu	02-Sep-20	PDL Notice/PDL Schedule	Poor weather causes minor delays to PDL vessel <i>Capitaine Dampier</i> V169. Revised ETA Port Vila 04 September, Santo 06 September.
Wallis and Futuna	02-Sep-20	PDL Schedule	<i>Capitaine Wallis</i> V 357 Wallis and Futuna 03 to 06 September.
<b>Shipping Lines</b>			
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Details</b>
ANL Shipping	31-Aug-20	ANL Shipping	ANL analyses shipping data to see which products have increased and decreased demand in Australia in 2020 <a href="https://www.anl.com.au/news/1271/australian-imports-which-consumer-goods-are-on-the-rise-">https://www.anl.com.au/news/1271/australian-imports-which-consumer-goods-are-on-the-rise-</a> <a href="https://www.anl.com.au/news/1290/australian-imports-decreasing-consumer-commodities">https://www.anl.com.au/news/1290/australian-imports-decreasing-consumer-commodities</a>
Kyowa Shipping	14-Aug-20	Kyowa Shipping	General cargo volumes remain steady, but there has been a drop in the demand for second-hand cars and construction material to some Pacific Island countries. Crew change - Before, we conducted crew change at Busan, Korea or Yokohama, Japan where our vessel calls every voyage. But we are not able to do so, because these ports have 14 days restriction. Crews are not allowed to disembark for 14 days from the day vessel depart from last port. In an emergency, we conduct crew change at Manila, Philippine. But it's not easy from both of the view, schedule delay and additional cost for the deviation.
Matson	30-Jul-20	Matson NZ	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 <i>Island Chief</i> V 008.
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 Capitaine Tasman V32 sailing from Tauranga on the 3rd July 2020. <a href="https://www.neptunepacific.com/news-2/current-news/">https://www.neptunepacific.com/news-2/current-news/</a>
Pacific Direct Line (PDL)	10-Aug-20	PDL Trade Notice	<i>Capitaine Dampier</i> V169 calling Nuku'alofa. We wish to advise that we will be closely monitoring cargo flows on this trade and ensuring that we match supply with demand by introducing Nuku'alofa calls on the <i>Capitaine Dampier</i> as the trade requires and continuing to provide premium transit times. For this reason we also have <i>Capitaine Dampier</i> V171 scheduled to call Nuku'alofa in support of Southern Trader V481.
	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	31-Aug-20	Swire Rate Restoration Notice	The arrival of COVID-19 this year has impacted international trade and diminished cargo flows across the Pacific and globally. While Swire Shipping has experienced a long period of declining ocean freight rates and escalating operating costs, we have not reduced our capacity as we recognise that our customers in Fiji rely on a regular and reliable shipping service. Swire Shipping is required to apply the following rate restoration from Australia to Fiji. Effective: Kokopo Chief v027N Rate Restoration: 20' FCL: US\$ 125 40' FCL: US\$ 250 Break-bulk: US\$ 7.25 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	02-Sep-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. <a href="https://wilhelmsen.com/ships-agency/campaigns/coronavirus/COVID19-Crew-Change/">https://wilhelmsen.com/ships-agency/campaigns/coronavirus/COVID19-Crew-Change/</a> COVID19 testing facilities, map updated daily <a href="https://wilhelmsen.com/ships-agency/campaigns/coronavirus/coronavirus-map/">https://wilhelmsen.com/ships-agency/campaigns/coronavirus/coronavirus-map/</a>
<b>General Update</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Details</b>
IMO COVID-19 Protocols	28-Aug-20	International Maritime Organisation	Circular Letter No.4204/Add.27 – Protocols to mitigate the risks of cases on board ships Circular Letter No.4204/Add.28 WHO guidance to promote public health measures on cargo ships and fishing vessels <a href="http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx">http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx</a>
ICS Protocols for mitigating COVID-19 Risk on Ships	26-Aug-20	International Chamber of Shipping	The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), along with the International Maritime Health Association (IMHA) and the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (INTERTANKO), have issued new protocols to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 cases on board. The protocols aim to safeguard the health of seafarers and guarantee the safe operations of maritime trade – offering governments and the general public reassurance that seafarers can embark and disembark ships safely. <a href="https://www.ics-shipping.org/news/press-releases/2020/08/26/new-protocols-offer-effective-tools-to-mitigate-the-risks-of-covid-19-onboard-ships">https://www.ics-shipping.org/news/press-releases/2020/08/26/new-protocols-offer-effective-tools-to-mitigate-the-risks-of-covid-19-onboard-ships</a>
Singapore Crew Change Facility	01-Sep-20	Seatrade maritime News	Singapore sets up floating crew holding facility and \$736,000 crew change fund From 1 September, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), with support of PSA Singapore, will use an existing floating accommodation to set up the CFC at Tanjong Pagar Terminal. The CFC is a self-contained facility with medical centre, testing and holding facilities, dedicated to sign-on crew to house them for 48 hours prior to them boarding their ships when their ship and flight schedule do not match.