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.

Nauru
Nauru Shipping Line (NSL) has been formally launched. Nauru Shipping is applying a restoration rate for cargo from Australia to Fiji. Nauru Shipping was working on issues to launch services for cargo in both directions. Nauru authorities have been promoting its shipping line, including a Facebook page. Nauru is the first country in the region to launch its own shipping line.

Fiji
Fiji Ports/Ministry of Health have issued an advisory on cargo vessels and marine tankers travelling from PNG ports to Solomon Islands. The advisory outlined 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 crew. Public Health monitors the stevedoring and Pilots on a continuous basis.

With the increase of containerized volume, the container yard has reached its capacity and excess containers 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 Authority Ports (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. (Out Island Chef) has been replaced by Oloomo. Although cargo reduction is slowly reducing we continue to receive and maintain our averaging cargo imported.

Fiji | 28-Aug-20 | Radio NZ Pacific | 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 service is critical in ensuring that our customers in Fiji rely on a regular and reliable shipping service. We are working with the Norfolk Islands government to establish a repatriation plan that includes transportation for local islanders from abroad and a repatriation program for crew. Cargo volumes have decreased from 11 to 15% compared to last year. Cargo vessels calls are down from an average of 26-28/month to 22-25/month. (June figures)

13-Aug-20 | Fiji Ports/Ministry of Health | Cargo change is permitted on a case by case basis. Approval must be granted by the Prime Minister’s Office.

11-Aug-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.

10-Aug-20 | Fiji Ports/Ministry of Health | Cargo change is permitted on a case by case basis. Approval must be granted by the Prime Minister’s Office.

Guam | 13-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 service is critical in ensuring that our customers in Fiji rely on a regular and reliable shipping service. We are working with the Norfolk Islands government to establish a repatriation plan that includes transportation for local islanders from abroad and a repatriation program for crew. Cargo volumes have decreased from 11 to 15% compared to last year. Cargo vessels calls are down from an average of 26-28/month to 22-25/month. (June figures)

11-Aug-20 | Wilhelmsen Website | Swire Shipping is required to apply the following rate restoration from Australia to Fiji. Effective: Kokopo Chief

13-Sep-20 | Government of FSM | The East Micronesia Service (EMS) will make it easier to assess crew health status and facilitate travel into the US. The US will provide guidance on how to assess crews and facilitate travel into the US.

1-Sep-20 | Mariana Express Line (MEL) Schedule | The East Micronesia Service (EMS) will make it easier to assess crew health status and facilitate travel into the US. The US will provide guidance on how to assess crews and facilitate travel into the US.

1-Sep-20 | Port of Guam | Port of Guam is providing regular COVID19 related updates via this link.

FSM | 04-Aug-20 | Government of FSM | Comprehensive guidelines for COVID19 management including points of entry procedures

Fiji | 04-Aug-20 | Government of FSM | Comprehensive guidelines for COVID19 management including points of entry procedures

01-Sep-20 | Port of Guam | Port of Guam is providing regular COVID19 related updates via this link.

Marshall Islands | 01-Sep-20 | Port of Guam | Port of Guam is providing regular COVID19 related updates via this link.

19-Aug-20 | Kiribati Port Authority/ Kiribati Department of Health | 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 crew. Public Health monitors the stevedoring and Pilots on a continuous basis.

With the increase of containerized container, the container yard has reached its capacity and excess containers 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.

Kiribati | 26-Aug-20 | PDL Schedule | 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.

27-Aug-20 | Kiribati Port Authority | 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.

26-Aug-20 | Kiribati Port Authority | 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.

If you have any updates to share, please email them to: mobile.de@wfp.org.
**Nauru**  
25-Aug-20  Government of Nauru COVID19 Update  
*Fights 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.*

**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 20 October.*

**New Zealand**  
29-Aug-20  Port of Auckland  
*Port of Auckland maintains testing regime for workers.*

**Nieuw**  
01-Sep-20  Matson Agent  
*Shipment to Nuku'alofa is scheduled for 10th of September. Note: no major impact from COVID19.*

**Papua New Guinea**  
28-Jul-20  PNG Ports Corporation  
*Port Morissey 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 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**  
14-May-20  Solomon Is Govt  
*Shipping to Nuku'alofa is scheduled for 22nd of October and no major impact from COVID19. The Capitaine Dampier V171 brought the majority of our cargo for this month and the Island Chief V008 the balance of the cargo. Ships still selling our normal foodstuffs and airfreighting any products that are short supply. Fresh Fruits and Vegetables still coming by air freighting each week when required and importantly our Health Department Medical supplies. The next call of the Island Chief V008 is not until the 3rd March.*

**Tokelau**  
28-Aug-20  Government of Tokelau  
*Complete VSS For cargo only Depart Apia 02 September – Nukumono/Apia ETA 06 September.*

**Tonga**  
10-Aug-20  PDL Trade Notice  
*Capitaine Jampster V008 calling Nuku'alofa. We wish to advise that we will be closely monitoring cargo flows on this trade and ensure that we match supply with demand by introducing Nukula'foa calls on the Capitaine Dampier as the trade requires and continue to provide premium transit times.*

**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 Captain Wolf. There is no other cargo vessel apart from Captain Wolf 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.*

**Vanuatu**  
02-Sep-20  PDL Notice/PDL Schedule  
*Poor weather causes minor delays to PDL vessel Capitaine Dampier V169. Revised ETA Port Vila 04 September, Santo 06 September.*

**Wallis and Futuna**  
25-Sep-20  PDL Schedule  
*Sailing the Wolfis V 157 Wallis and Futuna. 03 to 06 September.*

**Wangi Wangi**  
01-Aug-20  ANL Shipping  
*ANL analyses shipping data to see which products have increased and decreased demand in Australia in 2020 [https://www.anl.com.au/news/1712/australian-imports-which-consumer-goods-are-on-the-rise-]*

**Kyowa**  
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 materials to some Pacific islands. We are working to ensure our supply chain continues to serve businesses and contain their costs of doing business.*

**Matson**  
30-Jul-20  Matson NZ  
*NZ Sailing Schedule Adjustment – Return to Three Vessel Service: With New Zealand at Alert Level 1 and the South Pacific Islands 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 V008.*

**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 an net increase of USD30/TEU effective from the Kokopo Chief V02 sailing from Melbourne on the 5th July and the Capitaine Tainan V12 sailing from Tauranga on the 3rd July 2020.*

**Pacific Direct Line (PDL)**  
10-Aug-20  PDL Trade Notice  
*Captain Jampster V008 calling Nuku'alofa. We wish to advise that we will be closely monitoring cargo flows on this trade and ensure that we match supply with demand by introducing Nukula'foa calls on the Capitaine Dampier as the trade requires and continue to provide premium transit times.*

**Swire**  
11-Aug-20  Swire Rate Restortion Notice  
*The arrival of COVID-19 this year has impacted international trade and diminished cargo flows across the Pacific and globally. With 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.*

**Swire NZ**  
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.*


Updates on national requirements for crew change. This list does not yet include any Pacific nations other than New Zealand and some Australian ports.

[Wilhelmsen](https://wilhelmsen.com/ships-agency/campaigns/coronavirus/COVID19-Crew-Change/)

COVID19 testing facilities, map updated daily

[Wilhelmsen](https://wilhelmsen.com/ships-agency/campaigns/coronavirus/coronavirus-map/)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Update</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| IMO COVID-19  | 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
[http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx](http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx) |
| 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.
| 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. |