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 Tuesday.

Overview

Protected industrial action and rolling strikes in Australian ports is causing port congestion and shipping delays. This is exacerbating the regional imbalance of empty containers. Asian load ports, particularly in Vietnam are facing a shortage of empty containers. Due to the costs associated with COVID-19 Nauru Maritime and Port Authority (NMPA) will introduce a Temporary COVID-19 Levy (TCL) on all cargo vessels discharging in Nauru.

Neptune Pacific announced a new General Rate Increase for cargo on the Australia to and from Fiji service. Pacific Direct Line (PDL) announced a rate restoration programme on cargo from Asia to all Pacific Islands.

There are five live abord vessels and one vessel suspended from Vitim until further notice in the Solomon Islands. 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.

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. The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) requests raising the issue of seafarers and the crew change crisis during the upcoming high-level week of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly beginning on 22 September 2020. IMO and the UN Global Compact are organizing a side event during that week, to raise the visibility of the crew change crisis, most likely to take place on the World Maritime Day on 24 September.

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

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Marshall Islands Journal

Marshall Islands Journal reports that Wilhelmsen Shipyards has announced a temporary quarantine surcharge of USD 385 per TEU for all cargoes discharging in Nauru. The levy will be AUD672/TEU for dry and reefer cargoes and AUD365 for inbound breakbulk cargo. This surcharge will be effective for import cargo discharged on the Capitaine Quiros voyage OS59 with an ETA Nauru 04 October 2020.

PDL Trade Notice

To maintain our regular shipping services linking Asia with the Pacific Islands, we will implement a rate restoration program on these trades. From the 08-Sep-20 to 09-Sep-20, all cargoes discharging in Nauru. The levy will be AUD672/TEU for dry and reefer cargoes and AUD365 for inbound breakbulk cargo. This surcharge will be effective for import cargo discharged on the Capitaine Quiros voyage OS59 with an ETA Nauru 04 October 2020.

Nauru

Nauru Maritime and Port Authority

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.

New Zealand

Papa New Guinea

Sea cargo clearance protocol.

Updated 12 May 2020 v3

Solomon Islands

Solomon Island Govt

Sea cargo clearance protocol.

Updated 12 May 2020 v3

Tonga

Matangi Tonga

Tuvalu

Marine and Port Services Tuvalu

DevPolicy - Reappraisal

Part of Tuvalu’s overall COVID-19 health security strategy has been to facilitate and encourage voluntary movement 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, Nawa 11 and 7V Matiala 11, have been scheduled during the month to return cargo to the outer islands between 10–14 August and 14–27 September to facilitate this internal movement and also to deliver food supplies to the outer islands.

Vanuatu

Daily Post

Community bobbies government to assist with the return of Ni-Vanuatu fishermen working internationally on Tanzanian fishing boats. https://dailypost.vu/news/call-to-bring-ni-vanuatu-fishermen-on-taiwanese-fishing-boats-home/article_05d8db28-f091-11ea-ba24-522d7e22634e

Wallis and Futuna

PDL Schedule

Comet Wallis V 318 Wallis and Futuna 28 to 30 September.

Shipping Lines

Oceania

ANL

11-Sep-20

ANL Port Congestion Surcharge - Sydney

Due to a combination of factors including industrial action, we are now experiencing heavy congestion at Sydney terminals. This congestion has led to significant delays to our vessels schedules causing an increase in overall operational costs. ANL and CMA CGM wish to advise customers that a Port Congestion Surcharge of USD 285 per TEU (both standard and refuelled containers) will be included for all containers arriving/departing Sydney.

Kryowa Shipping

14-Aug-20

Kryowa Shipping

Crew change - Before, we conducted crew change at Boston, Korea or Yokohama, Japan where our vessel calls every voyage. But we are not able to do it, because these ports have 14 days restriction. Crews are not allowed to disembark for 14 days from the day vessel left from port. In an emergency, we conduct crew change at Manila, Philippines. But it’s not easy from both of the view, schedule delay and additional cost for the crew.

Neptune Pacific

07-Sep-20

Neptune Pacific Australia

Neptune Pacific Line (NPL) wishes to advise our customers that whilst Covid-19 continues to impact flows on a global level, we remain committed to ensuring the highest levels of service within our footprint to and from the Pacific Islands. In order to maintain the service frequency and fast foot traffic within our dedicated service covering Australia to and from Fiji we require a General Rate Increase of: USD 150/ton on dry and reefer cargo USD 8 per revenue ton on break bulk cargo. Which will become effective from Southern Moana v27 eta Melbourne 16 October 2020
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

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


COVID19 testing facilities, map updated daily


The International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Global Compact and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) have jointly issued a statement to urge all United Nations Member States to take action to urgently resolve the crew change crisis to avert a humanitarian disaster that will also affect the safety of shipping, the protection of the marine environment, the continuation of efficient trade and the recovery of the world economy.


The ITF has launched a map showing the effect of Covid-19 restrictions on countries and ports around the globe. Based on data from the ITF’s network of around 140 inspectors and contact networks, the map will be a vital resource for the thousands of seafarers hit hard by the crisis.


Human Rights at Sea in partnership with the University of Nottingham’s Rights Lab and supported by the Association for Professional Observers, have gone live with a new Fisheries Observer survey as part of ongoing work addressing the health, safety and well-being of Fisheries Observers in the Western and Central Pacific region. ‘Understanding the Working Conditions of Western and Central Pacific Ocean Fisheries Observers: A Baseline Survey’ has an aim to better understand the working conditions of fisheries observers and to identify factors that may help observers in the future.


A fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance operation in the Pacific concludes this week, with excellent cooperation demonstrated between nations despite the challenges of COVID-19 continuing to affect surveillance in the region. The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) led Operation Island Chief took place from 24 August to 4 September, conducting surveillance over the EEZs of all FFA Members. This year the operation included Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu, after their Operation Tui Moana was postponed in May due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

https://www.ffa.int/node/2467

COVID-19 Protocols

Member countries of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) are actively working together to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 being transmitted through fisheries operations, allowing the industry to continue making a vital contribution to Pacific island economies. The protocols can be found on the FFA website: http://ffa.int/covid19