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

Shipping Operations updated 3 November 2020

This 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 will now be circulated monthly.

Overview

- Cargo volumes are expected to increase during the fourth quarter. This is the regular peak season in the Pacific region.
- Difficulties in facilitating crew change continues 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, Guam, Australia and New Zealand.
- China has opened up 10 ports to crew changes but they come with strict protocols. 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
Cook Islands	30-Oct-20	Radio NZ Pacific	Cook Islands lifts 2 week quarantine on arrival requirement https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/429494/cook-islands-lifts-2-week-quarantine-on-arrival-requirement
	23-Sep-20	Matson NZ	Cargo volumes are down slightly due to the reduction in the tourism industry. However we continue to maintain 2 international container vessels visit per month and fuel tanker every 2-3 months. All crew are to remain onboard while alongside in Port. We have not experienced any impacts in the Domestic Shipping with regular services to the outer islands both the northern and southern group islands.
Fiji	02-Oct-20	Radio NZ Pacific	The head of Fiji's Port Denarau Marina said early weather predictions showed up to four cyclones could hit the vicinity this season. The marina was now full with more than 40 foreign yachts, all seeking shelter ahead of the Pacific cyclone season this summer. The yachts would normally head south out of the seasonal storm zone, but it was now wiser to remain where they were because borders were closed in Australia and New Zealand. It was difficult for yachts to sail against prevailing weather in the northern hemisphere, meaning it was not possible for many to backtrack to home ports.
	07-Oct-20	Neptune Pacific Australia	Neptune Pacific Line (NPL) wishes to advise that following an internal review and alignment that effective 01st January 2021, NPL will be adjusting their New Zealand Terminal Handling Charge (THC) covering all import and exports on the NZ to / from Fiji trade lane as follows; 20'dry exports NZD 250 per 20', 40'dry exports NZD 350 per 40', 20'reefer exports NZD 300 per 20', 40'reefer exports NZD 400 per 40', Break bulk exports NZD 15 per revenue tonne. The New Zealand import and export THC will continue to be a separate surcharge and billed to the party that currently receives the other origin surcharges. The change of the OTHC amount on the New Zealand export trades will require an adjustment of ocean freight rates from New Zealand so that the overall impact on a shipment booked on our services is cost neutral in relation to current OTHC level
	05-Oct-20	PDL Trade Notice	Pacific Direct Line (PDL) wishes to advise that further to our recent notice regarding the re-instatement of the Capitaine Dampier blank sailings, calls to both Suva & Lautoka ports will commence from her voyage 172. The revised schedule will be as follows: Tauranga – 16/10, Auckland – 17/10, Suva – 22/10, Lautoka – 24/10, Tauranga – 30/10.
	07-Oct-20	The Fiji Sun	More Container Lines Expand Asia Pacific Services. There is a huge interest in servicing the Asia Pacific region. This was after five Asia-based container lines have confirmed to expand its services in mid-February, next year that connects to Australia. This was after another China-based line had announced beefing up its service to and from Oceania. https://fijisun.com.fj/2015/12/30/more-container-lines-expand-asia-pacific-services/
FSM	06-Oct-20	Government of FSM	Comprehensive guidelines for COVID19 management including points of entry procedures https://fsmgov.org/fsmun/pubheal20.pdf
Guam	06-Oct-20	Port of Guam	Port of Guam is providing regular COVID19 related updates via this link. https://portofguam.com/covid-19-guidelines-and-information
Kiribati	02-Oct-20	PDL Schedule	Capitaine Quiros V089N ETA Kiritimati (Christmas) Island 28 October.
	31-Oct-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. Published Oct 31,2020: https://www.maritime-executive.com/editorials/china-expands-its-island-building-strategy-into-the-mid-pacific
Marshall Islands	04-Sep-20	NDC Travel Advisory #17	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. To ensure continuity of trans-shipment services, a limited number of carrier vessels shall be exempt. However, these carrier vessels are strictly required to spend 14 days at sea prior to port entry and only after clearance by MoHHS, RMI Ports Authority, MIMRA and RMI Immigration Division. Cruise ships, including live aboard vessels and yachts are suspended from visiting RMI until further notice.
	10-Sep-20	Marshall Islands records its first case of Covid-19	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/coronavirus-marshall-islands-kwajalein-atoll-us-military-base-b1426409.html
	23-Sep-20	Seaports Division-the RMI Ports Authority	At this point COVID-19 has not impacted the number of cargo vessel or tanker calls to RMI. There has been an impact on cargo volumes, due to shortage or inadequate volume from suppliers particularly from the US, and the Philippines but we see an upward trend in cargo volume from China. Shore leave is permitted to RMI citizens (fishermen) with tests upon disembarkation followed by a 14 days quarantine. also shore leave permitted for non-RMI citizens who have made outbound air travel reservations (returning to their countries)
Nauru	29-Sep-20	Nauru Bulletin/NSL FB page	The RMI under Marshall Islands Shipping Corporation have chartered the sailing cargo vessel, SV Kwai for 4 months in an effort to move towards net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050. SV Kwai will be engaged in domestic trade. The SV Kwai will join the RMI's vessels as they respond to the growing demand of the Neighbouring Islands especially in delivering RMIs Covid19 food baskets, as well as getting other much needed supplies in preparation for covid-19.
	31-Aug	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. Kwai V002N is scheduled to arrive in Nauru from Suva on 03 October.
	14-Jul-20	Neptune Pacific Line(NPL) Trade Notice	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. The levy will be AUD500/TEU for dry and reefer cargos and AUD50 for inbound breakbulk cargo. This surcharge will be effective for import cargo discharged on the Capitaine Quiros V089 with an ETA Nauru 04 October 2020.
			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 Zealand	24-Sep-20	Port of Auckland	<p>Port of Auckland released its Annual Report for the 2019/20 financial year. All freight volumes have suffered as a result of COVID-19. As New Zealand's largest import port we perhaps feel the effect more than others, as import businesses were affected first by the shutdown in China and then by the lockdown here in New Zealand. Car volumes in particular have fallen significantly. If the ongoing economic impact of COVID-19 results in a contraction of the New Zealand economy, we would expect a similar contraction in import freight volumes.</p> <p>Container volumes were down 6.3% on the year prior at 880,781 TEU, compared to 939,680 TEU in the same period last year. While some of the reduction was the result of the loss of two service calls, a service change and a high number of vessels arriving out of schedule in the first six months of the year, the impact of COVID-19 was the main factor.</p> <p>Multi-cargo volumes were down 11.7% compared to the year prior. Total breakbulk volume (including cars) was 5.779 million tonnes compared to 6.548 million tonnes last year. The drop in car volumes was the major component of this fall, down 15.2% to 216,356 units, compared to 255,252 units in the year prior.</p> <p>We handled 1,269 ship calls for the year, down 112 on the year before. A large contributor to this drop was the complete halt in cruise ship visits due to the New Zealand border closure, but a number of container lines also cancelled port calls as a result of COVID-19. We were expecting a record year with 137 cruise ship visits, but in the end we received only 112 calls – although this is still the second highest number of visits on record.</p>
Niue	06-Oct-20	Matson Agent/Matson Schedule	Shipping to Niue is still on schedule and no major impact from COVID-19. Shops 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.
Palau	02-Oct-20	Island Times	The US Coast Guard Cutter Sequoia arrived in Palau yesterday, October 15, at around noontime to resume work on the Aids to Navigation project to develop Palau's shipping routes. The 225-foot Seagoing Buoy Tender will be responsible for establishing floating buoys as markers for vessel-operators to determine how close their vessels are to underwater hazards. Although their point of anchor has yet to be confirmed, the Sequoia's efforts in May and June of this year established ten new buoys and repaired 43 existing ones in the West Passage, Malakal Harbor, and Malakal Pass. The United States Embassy has said that none of the crew of the Sequoia are expected to come ashore. The Embassy also says that the crew has completed over 14 days of quarantine aboard the ship, and has all tested negative for COVID.
Papua New Guinea	30-Sep-20	Swire Shipping	Swire Shipping to offer a fixed-day fortnightly service connecting North Asia with Papua New Guinea and Australia The newly upgraded North Asia Express (NAX) service will offer customers greater convenience and increased frequency to their key markets Singapore – Swire Shipping will operate its North Asia Express (NAX) service on a fixed-day fortnightly basis from November 2020 to better serve customers in the Asia-Pacific region. The newly upgraded service will connect North Asia with Papua New Guinea and Australia with a market-leading frequency of 14 days and will be supported through the deployment of Swire Shipping's 2,750TEU newbuild vessels. The fixed-day fortnightly service offers market-leading transit times to and from major ports in North Asia, Papua New Guinea and Australia. Under this enhancement, customers can look forward to a 9-day transit time from Hong Kong SAR to Lae.
Pitcairn	25-Sep-20	Pitcairn Administration	Following the announcement earlier in the year of a new ship, the MV Silver Supporter, Pitcairn Islands Tourism announced its 2020-2021 passenger sailing schedule today. Located halfway between New Zealand and Peru, Pitcairn has been home to the descendants of the HMAV Bounty mutineers since 1790 and remains one of the most remote and undiscovered tourism destinations in the world. Access to Pitcairn's shipping service is via Mangareva in French Polynesia, a 4-hour flight from the capital, Papeete. The services are timed to meet the weekly Tuesday flight at Mangareva. https://napavalleyregister.com/community/calistogan/news/mutineer-haven-pitcairn-island-hopes-to-ward-off-the-coronavirus/article_05ca744e-ff24-56a2-a4e8-6f7e3c28143.html For more information on the new shipping schedule visit www.visitpitcairn.nz
Samoa	01-Nov-20	Pacific Freight Management	https://www.pacificfreightmanagement.co.nz/schedule/apia/
	09-Sep-20	Samoa Shipping Services	Over 100 Samoan seafarers have completed employment contracts but are unable to disembark to come home due to COVID19. Closure of Samoan borders and lack of flights are preventing the return of Samoan seafarers. There are more than 200 seafarers in Samoa waiting to join vessels when the borders re-open. COVID-19 has had a huge impact on the Samoan shipping industry. Cruise liners prohibited to enter ports and cargo vessels limited to 2 vessels almost every week. Flight stoppage impacts air-freight cargo and seafarers disallowed to travel causing delays in mandatory crew change.
Solomon Islands	01-Nov-20	The Solomon Times	https://www.solomontimes.com/news/covid19-monitoring-our-ports-and-economic-health/10026
	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. https://www.customs.gov.sb/files/VESEL%20TRAVEL%20ADVISORY%20FOR%20PNG.pdf
Tokelau	07-Sep-20	Tradco Agent	The new regulations are impacting as vessels from Port Moresby cannot berth earlier than 4 days which is approx. 1-1.5 day delay to the vessel.
	06-Oct-20	Administrator of Tokelau/TVNZ	Tokelau is expecting the imminent arrival of custom-made laboratory containers that will enable them to check and test for Covid-19 on the territory. The laboratory setup consists of two shipping containers containing a GeneXpert testing system, sterilisation kits, air-conditioning and a range of equipment needed for the testing process. Tokelau's borders closed to returning passengers in April but have since reopened and had their first repatriation sailing on July 27. The territory's only form of international transport is a ship between Samoa and Tokelau and, during the border closure, trips were restricted to cargo-only sailings, delivering food and necessities. <i>LC Kalopapa</i> V#090 will depart Apia on 13 October.
Tonga	01-Nov-20	Pacific Freight Management	https://www.pacificfreightmanagement.co.nz/schedule/nukualofa/
	17-Sep-20	PDL Trade Notice	To ensure the delivery of all cargo booked for Tonga & Samoa's in September, <i>Capitaine Dampier</i> V171 will call Nuku'alofa directly after Auckland to support the <i>Southern Trader</i> V481 on this trade. <i>Southern Trader</i> V481 will sail directly from Auckland to Apia, Pago Pago and then Nuku'alofa. All Nuku'alofa cargo booked from or via Auckland will load on the <i>Capitaine Dampier</i> V171. After her call in Nuku'alofa the <i>Capitaine Dampier</i> will proceed on her normal rotation of Suva, Lautoka, Port Vila and Santo, cargo delivery into these ports will not be impacted. As previously advised, 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.
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 vessels usually takes 3-4 weeks. Until now, there is no change in volume of cargo which could be attributed to the impact of COVID19.
Shipping Lines	Date	Source	Details
Neptune Pacific	23-Sep-20	Neptune Pacific Trade Notice	Due to the current travel & quarantine restrictions on a global scale, our shipping schedules are significantly affected and we would like to communicate to you the reasons why. The safety of our crew and the communities we service is always our first priority. To ensure we maintain covid-free bubbles on board our vessels the management of crew changes to and from ships does require us to: Adjust port rotations to accommodate crew health checks. - Make additional port calls to enable crew to return home. - Amend scheduled crew changes due to travel & quarantine delays. - Delay vessels in ports to allow for crew changes to be coordinated.
	08-Oct-20	Neptune Pacific Australia Central Pacific Service Revision	Dear Valued Customers, In order to provide tailored capacity to service our key ports in the Central Pacific, we will be revising the service strings in the region as follows. https://www.neptunepacific.com/news-2/current-news/
Pacific Direct Line (PDL)	16-Oct-20	PDL Trade Notice	Dear Valued Customers, Pacific Direct Line (PDL) wishes to advise that due to some urgent repairs required on the Southern Trader, she will be delayed leaving Auckland port by one day. We endeavour to get the repairs completed soon as possible to enable her to resume schedule. https://www.pdl123.co.nz/pdl-news/trade-notice/
	19-Oct-20	PDL Trade Notice	Sofrana Tourville V244 replacing Capitaine Tasman V39 for Noumea. Due to delays through the Ports of Auckland and Suva on her current voyage, the Capitaine Tasman V39 will omit Noumea in order to maintain her forward schedule and all Noumea cargo will be transferred to Sofrana Tourville V244. This will allow us to load in Mount Maunganui to Noumea on this voyage but does impact the planned Noumea eta with a 5 day delay. https://www.pdl123.co.nz/pdl-news/trade-notice/
Swire Shipping	07-Oct-20	Swire	Swire Shipping to offer a fixed-day fortnightly service connecting North Asia with Papua New Guinea and Australia. Swire Shipping will operate its North Asia Express (NAX) service on a fixed-day fortnightly basis from November 2020 to better serve customers in the Asia-Pacific region. The newly upgraded service will connect North Asia with Papua New Guinea and Australia with a market-leading frequency of 14 days and will be supported through the deployment of Swire Shipping's 2,750TEU newbuild vessels. North Asia with Papua New Guinea and Australia. https://news.swireshipping.com/news-release-en-swire-shipping-to-offer-a-fixed-day-fortnightly-service-connecting-north-asia-with-papua-new-guinea-and-australia/
Wilhelmsen	05-Oct-20	Wilhelmsen Website	Updates on national requirements for crew change. Including New Zealand, new regulation for Queensland and Victoria in Australia. It does not cover any Pacific Island nations. 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

The IMO becomes the latest high profile shipping name to be hacked	01-Oct-20	International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Press Briefing	<p>The global shipping industry sustained a second cyber attack within a week that's raising concern about disruptions to supply chains already straining to move goods heading into the usual peak season for consumer demand.</p> <p>The International Maritime Organization, a United Nations agency that serves as the industry's regulatory body, said in a statement Thursday it has suffered "a sophisticated cyber attack against the organization's IT systems." A number of IMO web-based services are currently unavailable and the breach is affecting its public website and internal systems, it said.</p> <p>That attack followed the disclosure earlier this week by closely held CMA CGM SA, the world's fourth-biggest container liner by capacity, that its information systems were compromised. The Marseille, France-based company said Thursday that offices are "gradually being reconnected to the network thus improving the bookings' and documentation's processing times."</p> <p>"We suspect a data breach and are doing everything possible to assess its potential volume and nature," the company said in an emailed statement. CMA CGM is among the world's five leading container liners that account for 65% of global capacity, according to Alphaliner data.</p> <p>Maritime security responsibilities – Training in Vanuatu https://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/Pages/WhatsNew-1534.aspx</p>
New guidance to facilitate repatriation flights for seafarers	25-Sep-20	International Maritime Organisation	<p>Passenger and repatriation flights are essential to allow stranded seafarers to go home, and for their relief crews to be able to join ships. New guidance issued by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to facilitate those flights marks a further step to alleviate the ongoing crew change crisis.</p> <p>The guidance outlines specific recommendations for seafarer changeover flights, including the need for advanced bilateral communication, coordination and planning between shipowners, aviation stakeholders and the relevant authorities. It also highlights the importance of seafarers and requests States to grant rapid authorization for the entry, departure and transit of aircraft, including seafarer changeover flights.</p> <p>https://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/Pages/WhatsNew-1536.aspx</p>
Australia arrests Japanese car carrier over overdue crew change.	23-Oct-20	Offshore Energy	<p>Japanese-owned car import vessel Metis Leader has been arrested in Australia on the grounds of overdue crew changes.</p> <p>The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) said a number of seafarers on the Panamanian-flagged vessel had been working aboard the vessel in excess of the 11 months, the maximum permitted under the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) and vessels flagged to Panama.</p> <p>These included five seafarers on the verge of 12 months working aboard, two seafarers aboard for 14 months, and three seafarers aboard for more than 15 months, including the ship's captain. https://www.offshore-energy.biz/australia-arrests-japanese-car-carrier-over-overdue-crew-change/</p>
ITF Global Crew Change Map	02-Oct-20	International Transport Workers Federation (ITF)	<p>The ITF regularly updates the 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 is a vital resource for the thousands of seafarers hit hard by the crisis.</p> <p>https://www.itfseafarers.org/en/embed/covid-19-country-information-seafarers</p>
COVID-19 Protocols	20-Sep-20	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)	<p>These protocols represent a collaborative effort informed by technical experts from regional agencies, FFA Members and the Pacific fishing industry. The protocols can be found on the FFA website: http://ffa.int/covid19</p>