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Shipping Operations updated 2 July 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

Shipping companies, governments and commercial entities in the Pacific region continue to report reduced cargo demand on reduced services. Shipping companies have responded with a mix of blanked sailings, reduced frequency of services, alteration of scheduled routes and use of smaller vessels. Freight rate increases have been implemented on the majority of routes bringing cargo into the region. Solomon Islands and Marshall Islands have eased quarantine regulations and shipping companies are now reporting minimal delays. Tuvalu has reduced the quarantine period for landed cargo from 9 days to 3 days. Kiribati enforces a 5 day quarantine period for landed cargo if the cargo has not been in sealed containers for more than 5 days prior to arrival in Kiribati ports.

Cargo services, but not passenger services, between Samoa and American Samoa have resumed.

HMAS Chules will sail from Australia to Port Vila. The final sailing date is TBC (end of July) opportunities to load cargo in Sydney (3-15 July) and then Townsville (20-23 July). Dates are subject to change. Some cargo space may be available to partner agencies. Enquiries should be sent to [Pacific.Corridor@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Pacific.Corridor@dfat.gov.au) by close of business Friday 3 July

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State / Territory	Date	Source	Details
American Samoa	29-Jun-20	Government of Samoa FB and Samoan Shipping Corporation Website	Trips between Apia and Pago Pago have now been confirmed to resume. <i>MV Lady Naomi</i> sails between the two islands for cargoes only commencing Thursday 2 July 2020.
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. Lady Moana, and Grinna have just serviced the southern group islands. Grinna successfully returned back from Palmerston and will head off to Pukapuka, Nassau next 2 days and on return will head back north to Manihiki, Rakahanga and Penryhn. Lady Moana is on maintenance for one week. Kwai's voyage to the northern group from Hawai'i has been declined by the border agencies and the Ministry of Transport due COVID19. Cook Islands will keep their borders closed until at least 30 September.
	01-Jul-20	Matson Schedule	<i>Liloa 11</i> V047 ETA Rarotonga 04 July / Aitutaki 06 July
Fiji	29-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. <i>Capitaine Dampier</i> - alternate sailings are blanked at least until August.
	24-Jun-20	Fiji Sun	<b>Cruise ships banned but super yachts permitted.</b> Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama while announcing the further ban of cruise ships in Fiji stated that maritime borders were open for foreign flagged vessels and super yachts. The Port Denarau Marina is the only port of entry. Those eligible to sail to Fiji fall under two categories, both of which require them to be tested in another country before departing. If their journey to Fiji will take 14 days or longer uninterrupted at sea, once they dock in Fiji and show proof of a negative test result, everyone on board will be screened by the Ministry of Health for symptoms. <a href="https://fijisun.com.fj/2020/06/24/super-yachts-produce-huge-economic-value/">https://fijisun.com.fj/2020/06/24/super-yachts-produce-huge-economic-value/</a>
	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
FSM	18-Jun-20	Mariana Express Line (MELL) Schedule	The East Micronesia Service (EMS) will make calls to Kosrae based on inducement on alternate voyages, until August. The Majuro South Pacific Service (MSP) will resume the regular rotation to call LTK - MAJ - KSA - PNI, now that Marshall Island quarantine restrictions have eased.
Kiribati	30-Jun-20	PDL Schedule	<i>Capitaine Quiros</i> V087N is planned to call Tarawa on the 12-14 July and Kiritimati (Christmas) Island 21-25 July
	25-May-20	Mariana Express Line (MELL) Schedule	MELL will omit Tarawa from Majuro South Pacific (MSP) schedule until the end of the year.
	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.
	30-Jun-20	Kiribati Port Authority Christmas Island Branch	LC.Linnix is in Kiritimati/Christmas Island waiting to load cargoes before going back to Tabuearan/Fanning and Teraina/Washington islands, KNSL has prepared more than 300tons of breakbulk cargoes to these 2 outer Islands.
Marshall Islands	22-Jun-20	Sitrep 24 Update Interim Health Travel Advisory and Restrictions Issuance 14	All container vessels and fuel tankers that have a history of entering the Majuro and Ebeye Ports, and that have RMI Immigration and MoHHS records indicating that they have the same master and crew members with consistently healthy medical records and no record of disembarkation from their vessel, can enter the ports without the need for a 14 day quarantine period. All container vessels and fuel tankers not meeting these requirements will be subjected to the 14 day quarantine period as described. 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	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).
	17-Jun-20	Mariana Express Line (MELL) Schedule	The Majuro South Pacific Service (MSP) service will resume the regular rotation to call LTK - MAJ - KSA - PNI, now that Marshall Island quarantine restrictions have eased.
Nauru	30-Jun-20	PDL schedule	Next voyage of <i>Capitaine Quiros</i> (V87N) expected 02-11 July.
	22-Apr-20	Neptune Pacific Line (NPL) Trade Notice	Nauru - Temporary Quarantine Surcharge (TQS) As a contribution to the significant cost associated with above, with immediate effect for cargo originating in Asia, USA, Australia, New Zealand and Fiji into Nauru, will implement a Temporary Quarantine Surcharge (TQS) of USD 349/tea for both dry and reefer and USD 25/RVT break bulk.
Niue	02-Jun-20	Matson Schedule and Matson Agent	<i>Island Chief</i> V007 is next scheduled vessel on 25 July. The ship is calling at Niue monthly.
Papua New Guinea	01-Jul-20	ITF Website	PNG Borders and airports remain closed. No crew change and no shore leave. Shipping services are not restricted.
Pitcairn	02-Jul-20	Pitcairn Administrator	The <i>Silver Supporter</i> arrived in Pitcairn as scheduled on 01 July. The vessel carried COVID19 PPE supplies. The vessel is chartered by Pitcairn Island and sails to meet demand.
Samoa	29-Jun-20	Government of Samoa FB and Samoa Shipping Corporation website	Trips between Apia and Pago Pago have now been confirmed to resume. <i>MV Lady Naomi</i> sails between the two islands for cargo only commencing Thursday 2 July 2020.
	24-Jun-20	Samoa Shipping Corporation FB and website	There are daily domestic shipping services between Upolu and Savai'i, except on Sunday, for cargo, vehicles and passengers. There will be a LPG cargo service on 6-7 July.
	16-Jun-20	Kyowa Shipping	In our current rotation, vessel heads to Honiara right after sailed Yokohama, Japan which is considered as infected country. We are forced to wait 4-5 days. We are asking authority to shorten the period, but as of today we haven't received a favourable reply.
	29-Jun-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.

State / Territory	Date	Source	Details
Solomon Islands	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.
Tokelau	02-Jul-20	Govt of Tokelau Dept of Transport and Support Services FB	<i>Kalopaga</i> V081 calling Atafu/ Nukunonu/Fakafofo. Scheduled to depart Apia Thursday 4 July No shortages of essential goods are being reported in Tokelau. No passengers are permitted on the voyages from Samoa.
Tonga	25-Jun-20	Port Authority Tonga	All crew are subject to medical screening before arrival in port. The COVID-19 procedures are now working smoothly. There is a slight reduction in number of vessels calling.
Tuvalu	29-Jun-20	PDL Schedule/ Marine and Port Services Tuvalu	<i>Capitaine Wallis</i> V354 will call at Funafuti 13-14 July. The quarantine period has been reduced from 9 days to 3 days (held in the harbour) for cargo landed in Funafuti. Normal shipping schedule is being followed
Vanuatu	26-Jun-20	Australian Defence Force (ADF)	HMAS Chules sailing from Australia to Port Vila. The final sailing date is TBC (end of July) opportunities to load cargo in Sydney (3-15 July) and then Townsville (20-23 July). Dates are subject to change. Some cargo space may be available to partner agencies. Enquiries should be sent to <a href="mailto:Pacific.Corridor@dfat.gov.au">Pacific.Corridor@dfat.gov.au</a> by close of business Friday 3 July.
Wallis and Futuna	23-Jun-20	PDL Schedule	<i>Capitaine Wallis</i> V 354 schedule to call 16 - 19 July
<b>Shipping Line</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Details</b>
Kyowa Shipping	15-Jun-20	Kyowa Shipping	Due to COVID19 quarantine regulations in some Pacific Countries, we are forced to change vessel rotation, or wait some days out of the port. For this, we are spending extra days & costs.
Kwai	02-Jul-20	Kwai Shipping	Kwai will conduct another plastic collection voyage in the Pacific Gyre. There are no cargo voyages scheduled in the coming month.
Mariana Express Lines (MELL)	16-Jun-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 and Majuro based on inducement during June, July and August.
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)	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.
	04-Jun-20	PDL NZ	There is a notable downturn in demand particularly for Cook Islands and French Polynesia where the economies are heavily dependent on the tourism industry. Not only is the tourism industry shut down, there are simply less consumers as the tourist population is removed from the market. Vanuatu has not yet experienced such an obvious down turn in demand, but that may be due to TC Harold response and reconstruction cargo adding to the cargo volume.
	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\$ 300 Break-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.
<b>General Update</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Details</b>
COVID-19 Pacific Humanitarian Pathway	30-Jun-20	Pacific Island Forum	<b>PIFS HQ, SUVA:</b> The Pacific Humanitarian Pathway on COVID-19 (PHP-C), continues to coordinate consignments of medical support to Forum Island Countries with medical supplies donated by the Jack Ma Foundation received in Fiji, French Polynesia and Papua New Guinea.
ICS COVID-19 crew change crisis	02-Jul-20	International Chamber of Shipping (ICS)	The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) is encouraging ships around the world to sound their horns when in port at 12.00 local time on 8th July to remind Governments of the ongoing crew change crisis. The action comes ahead of a critical summit meeting led by the UK Government on the 9th July to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on crew changes and on the day leaders meet for the ILO Global Summit.
ITF Press Release-calling for Seafarer Repatriation	23-Jun-20	International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF)	ITF recognise that, when seafarers have finished their extended contracts, they are fatigued physically and/or mentally and feel that they are not fit to continue to safely perform their duties at the level required of a professional. The responsible action at this point is not to extend their contract and request repatriation. <a href="https://www.itfglobal.org/en/news/crew-change-crisis-itf-and-jng-joint-statement">https://www.itfglobal.org/en/news/crew-change-crisis-itf-and-jng-joint-statement</a>