



SPC
Secretariat
of the Pacific
Community

Secretariat of the Pacific Community's
Regional Maritime Programme



REGIONAL MARITIME INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue 61—2008

RMP's Goal:
Safe & secure shipping, cleaner seas,
improved social & economic wellbeing of
seafaring communities in the Pacific



3 Luke St,
NABUA
Private Mailbag,
Suva,
FJI ISLANDS

Tel: +679 3370733
Fax: +679 3370146
maritime@spc.int
www.spc.int/maritime

Waqa Quits Shipping Post

Fiji Times Newspaper— 20 June 2008

THE Fiji Shipping Corporation Limited's chief executive officer position has become vacant following the resignation of current incumbent Waqa Ledua. Transport Permanent Secretary Anand Kumar yesterday confirmed that Mr Ledua had handed in his resignation. He said although Mr Ledua had resigned, he would

remain with the company until August 31. The new CEO would oversee the management of Fiji Shipping Corporation Limited and (Shipping Franchise Scheme (SFS), he said. The successful incumbent will report to the board of directors, and will also be responsible for the day to day operations and administration of the

Corporation. The Corporation is a fully-owned government company responsible for the operations and administration of SFS. He said the CEO's post was advertised in the dailies over the weekend and would close on July 2.

Swire Shipping Upgrading Northern Service

Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News — 24 June 2008

Swire Shipping will next week upgrade its liner shipping service framework between North Asia and Papua New Guinea/Solomon Islands. As part of a slot exchange arrangement with Austral Asia Line, Swire Shipping would offer its customers in PNG and Solomon Islands an improved level service: from July, the company said. "We will be providing more direct ports of call, increased shipping capacity, improved service regularity and reliability, and faster transit

times from the North Asia region", Adrian Butler, Swire Shipping Line manager, southeast Asia Service, said. Swire Shipping has been operating a direct, twice monthly sailing from Shanghai and Busan to Lae for some time whereby other PNG ports and Honiara have been serviced by transshipment over Singapore. The new framework will deliver sailings from Hong Kong and Shanghai directly to Lae and Port Moresby (every 15 days) as well as to

Madang, Rabaul and Honiara (monthly). "Swire Shipping has for some time been providing the most comprehensive shipping service between southeast Asia and PNG/Solomon Islands," Mr Butler said. "The upgrade on the North Asia route is a direct reflection of our commitment to continuously enhance our service product in line with our customers' requirements."

Australia Maps PNG Waters

Safety of Life at Sea International — 20 June 2008

AUSTRALIA'S Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Procurement, Greg Combet, has unveiled new hydrographic charts for Papua New Guinea as part of this year's UN World Hydrography Day celebrations. Combet and the Royal Australian Navy's Australian Hydrographic

Service marked the completion of the PNG Hydrographic Chart Recompilation and Modernisation Project, under which a series of 39 new paper and electronic navigational charts for the entire PNG region has been completed. The project, part of a programme to rehabilitate

the maritime safety infrastructure in PNG waters, was funded by the Asian Development Bank. "This important regional development will enable much safer shipping and navigation through the environmentally sensitive area of Torres Strait and throughout PNG waters," Combet said.

Biofuel Transport Clarity Sought

Fairplay Daily News Service — 08 July 2008

AN International Maritime Organisation (IMO) working group will seek to reduce the confusion regarding shipping biofuels during a fall meeting, Fairplay 24 has learned. Janet Strobe, General Manager of the International Parcel Tankers Association, complained about the amount of misinformation in maritime circles about biofuels.

She herself was incorrectly quoted last week as saying that biofuels were sometimes carried in pure form, and sometimes as a blend with gasoline, even though "either way they do not have to be carried by chemical carriers", although they usually are. Strobe pointed out that ethanol can be carried in pure form or as a

blend, either by chemical carriers or by product carriers. But pure biodiesel must be carried by chemical carriers. The IMO is working on transport rules for blends of biofuel and petroleum fuel. Strobe is a member of the IMO working group, which will meet in October to clarify the complex issues.

AMC Tackle Skills Shortages in the Maritime Industry

Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News — 09 July 2008

The Australian Maritime College (AMC) will host a national forum in Melbourne today aimed at addressing the skills shortage in the maritime industry. Seafarer employers, port managers, towage companies, marine surveyors, pilots, consultants, peak bodies and government departments will be among the delegates

attending the event. The AMC Maritime Transport Policy Centre will host the forum and will invite industry representatives to share their experiences and then plan approaches to overcome the difficulties that face marine sector recruitment. Braemar Seascope's group research manager for the Asia and Australasia

region, Peter Malpas, will present shipbuilding market projections and a session by the Australian Shipowners Association executive director, Teresa Hatch, will cover the work the Association has already done in the area of skills shortages.

Samoa First FFA/SPC Member to Modernise Fisheries Legislation

FFA Media Statement — 23 July 2008

The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) coordinated legal consultations in Apia last week to review Samoa's fisheries legislation. Samoa is the first of FFA/SPC countries to undertake a consultative process to modernize their fisheries legislation with the assistance of FFA and SPC, working together for the first time to set a benchmark for fisheries law. On Thursday and Friday last week, staff and management of the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries gave their input into draft fisheries legislation, prepared by FFA and SPC. FFA and SPC drafted the new legislation following some initial consultations with government and a further consultation with stakeholders including the Department of the Attorney General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, industry and non-government organisations last year. Created in 1988, Samoa's fisheries Act needed modernization to better address new developments, reflect national priorities and enable the country to meet its regional and international obligations. The new legislation will cover coastal, aquaculture and oceanic fisheries in the one Act and be

accompanied by a set of regulations (to be launched at the same time as the Act is approved). This work is an important part of FFA's strategic objective of providing legislative assistance to FFA members so they can modernize their fisheries legislation. FFA has developed model legislation, which is adapted to reflect national needs and aspirations using a consultation process, to create legislation which is suited to the FFA member. Drafting of legislation is then completed as a team of FFA, SPC and fisheries and legal staff of the member country. In most island countries under the umbrella of SPC, fisheries legislations lack essential provisions under coastal components. Assistance by SPC in developing coastal fisheries legislation is a new initiative in order to provide a legal framework for island countries to regulate and manage inshore fisheries resources in a sustainable manner. FFA and SPC will work together to commence legislative reviews in other countries and have planned reviews in Fiji, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Marshall Islands and Nauru. FFA Director General Su'a N.F. Tanielu said, "SPC and FFA are very pleased to be working with Samoa to conduct the first review of a

country's fisheries legislation. The consultations in Apia and the work the Samoan Government, FFA and SPC do together will ensure that Samoa's upcoming fisheries legislation reflect the country's conservation, management and development aspirations. We look forward to providing assistance to other countries to improve their national fisheries legislation so capacity to participate in regional cooperation and take advantage of new opportunities arising from the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission is increased." Samoan Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Fisheries Division, Mulipola Atonio Mulipola said, "Change to our fisheries law will not only allow us to fulfil our regional and international obligations but strengthen our efforts to effectively promote development, conservation and management of both coastal and oceanic fisheries. Furthermore, the new legislation framework will provide opportunities for economic development through aquaculture, fishing in the high seas, chartering arrangements as well as potential fishing access arrangements in the future." "We thank FFA and SPC for this legislative assistance."

Ship Owners Decry Rates

Fiji Times Newspaper— 24 May 2008

Uneconomical freight rates set by the Prices and Incomes Board will cause the collapse of many private shipping companies, says local Ship Owners Association secretary, Leo Smith. He said the last freight rate rise was awarded in 1992 and shipping companies were digging deep into their coffers to ensure they maintained their routes. He said the rise in fuel prices was affecting ship owners and the only way they could recover costs was to raise freight rates. "It is unreasonable and irresponsible for the Government to control and freeze service rates given that they obligingly allow the fuel companies regular cost adjustments which

directly affect the shipping fraternity as a major part of their operating costs," said Mr Smith.

He said the freeze of freight rate was directly responsible for the collapse of services to the outer islands, where the viability of profits disappeared in the mid-1990s. PIB secretary, Ane Naulivou, said the determination of freight rates was no longer a board responsibility and had been transferred to the Fiji Islands Maritime Safety Administration. Mr Smith, a director of Consort Shipping, said the company spent \$260,000 a month on fuel. He said not all shipping companies were subsidised by the

Government but through the franchise scheme, companies were contracted to service the routes, many of which were uneconomical. "The only subsidy we get from government is the 18-cents duty free on fuel," said Mr Smith. He said the move by the Government to introduce State vessel services on the same routes and ports competed directly with private ship owners. "Both seem to be directly competing against each other for the same fickle and limited volumes of cargo and passengers." Transport Minister, Timoci Natuvu, said he would prefer to discuss the matter with Mr Smith.