



**PORT OF OAKLAND
SEAPORT**

APRIL 2020

MARITIME e-NEWS



Status update

During this extraordinary time that we're all experiencing in different ways, we, at the Port of Oakland, hope you and your loved ones are well and safe.

Ships arrive. Cargo moves. The routine of freight transportation continues at the Oakland Seaport despite a global coronavirus pandemic. That's because the Port is essential infrastructure exempt from shelter-in-place orders. But things have changed.

Shipping lines have announced some canceled sailings over the next few months. Night gate hours have been modified to accommodate deep cleaning at marine terminals.

The important thing to remember: shippers can still drop off or pick up cargo without disruption. Here's the Port of Oakland's status report:

Health/safety precautions: The Port is making Personal Protective Equipment available to staff. Marine terminal operators are doing the same for staff and longshore labor. Work areas and equipment undergo deep cleaning and sanitizing nightly. This has pushed back the start of night gates by an hour.

Vessel arrivals: Container shipping lines have announced 15 blank sailings to Oakland in May and June. That's about 10 per-

continues on page 2

Port of Oakland welcomes biggest ship ever

MSC Anna, 1,312-foot-long, can transport up to 19,200 20-foot boxes

Coronavirus may be hampering global trade but it hasn't broken the supply chain at the Port of Oakland. The latest evidence: the largest ship ever to call Oakland arrived this week. The container vessel MSC Anna berthed at the Port April 16.

The ship tied up at Oakland International Container Terminal on Oakland Estuary. The Port said that the 1,312-foot-long vessel is on special assignment from Geneva-based shipping line MSC. It collected a backlog of empty containers in Southern California before arriving in Oakland. It discharged import containers and loaded exports.

"We've spent years, and millions of dollars keeping ahead of the pace of trade and the size of ships," said Port of Oakland Executive Director Danny Wan. We're ready for the MSC Anna and we'll welcome her back any time."

The arrival is gratifying for Oakland, which has growth aspirations despite recent cargo volume declines from the

continues on page 3

Update, from page 1

cent of the Port's regularly scheduled calls. The reduction in sailing reflects decreased demand for vessel space resulting from the pandemic's drag on global business activity. The number of voided sailings in Oakland is smaller than in Southern California. That's likely due to Oakland's strong export business, which ocean carriers remain eager to serve.

Cargo volumes: The import decline of recent months is likely to continue into summer. That's evident from the number of voyage cancellations. Export volumes may moderate as well after showing strength in the first quarter of 2020. Refrigerated export business – especially to Japan – has been a strength in Oakland throughout 2020. That trend is expected to continue.

Terminal operations: One silver lining amidst declining volume – marine terminals are fluid. Ships continue to depart on schedule. Dwell time for containerized imports is normal. Truck driver turn times are generally in the 45-to-80-minute range.

Equipment: There are no reports of chassis or container shortages in Oakland.

Cargo-handling capacity: As China's factories and ports restart, there's concern about pent up demand overwhelming the supply chain. That's not likely to happen in Oakland. Projections are for softening volume in springtime. When business does pick up, the Port of Oakland has ample capacity.

Labor: Longshore workers have stepped up to the Port's designation as essential infrastructure. Dockworkers are filling daily labor orders and maintaining Port productivity. The work force stood down for 24 hours last month after a dockworker's fatal accident. The Port offered condolences and praised longshore workers for their commitment to global trade.



Port of Oakland hails waterfront work force

Praise for “all on front line of supply chain” in face of pandemic

The Port of Oakland praised dockworkers and their waterfront brethren for sustaining international trade. The Port's recognition preceded the annual Western Hemisphere Ports Day on April 5, 2020. It carried added weight in the face of the coronavirus pandemic that has killed thousands and roiled economies worldwide.

“Ports including Oakland have been declared essential infrastructure and must keep operating for the public good and the future of trade,” pointed out Port of Oakland Maritime Director John Driscoll. “That couldn't happen without the waterfront work force that keeps cargo moving. Dockworkers, truckers, all of those on the front line of the supply chain have earned our sincerest gratitude.”

The Port said that its continuing operations are a testament to those involved in the transport of global trade. According to the American Association of Port Authorities, 650,000 people in the U.S. alone work in maritime jobs. The Association said Ports Day highlights their contributions and courage in the face of an international health crisis.

Port of Oakland loaded box volume dipped 7.4 percent in March

COVID-19 impact on global trade cuts number of ship calls

Port of Oakland loaded container volume declined 7.4 percent in March from 2019 totals. The Port said the cargo decrease resulted from a coronavirus pandemic that has weakened global trade.

March containerized import volume dropped 10.3 percent from March 2019. Export loads were off 5 percent. The return of empty containers to origins in Asia decreased 23 percent. Total volume – which combines all three measures – declined 11 percent.

The worldwide effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 has slowed containerized freight transport. As evidence, the Port pointed to the following:

Ports up and down the U.S. West Coast reported reduced cargo volume in March.

The number of ships calling in Oakland last month declined 10.6 percent from March 2019.

The Port said it's fully operational despite a shelter-in-place order mandated by Alameda County. The Port and supply chain partners have been declared critical infrastructure in the coronavirus fight.

Port of Oakland provides coronavirus updates via blog

Online visitors can find coronavirus impact updates from the Port of Oakland on a new [blog](#). The blog includes reports from the Port of Oakland and its Oakland International Airport.

Friendly coronavirus reminder

The best defense against COVID-19 remains washing your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, keeping your hands away from your face and social distancing. Please see and follow the list of CDC recommendations here: <https://www.cdc.gov>. Thank you for your continued adherence to these guidelines.

Industry resource links:

- [Oakland Portal](#)
- [Oakland Seaport Map](#)
- [Ocean Carrier Services](#)
- [Shipping Forms & Permits](#)
- [Shore Power & Vessel Commissioning](#)
- [Trucker Resources](#)
- [TWIC](#)
- [Maritime Service Directory](#)

MSC Anna, from page 1

coronavirus pandemic. The MSC Anna can carry up to 19,200 20-foot cargo containers. That makes it one of the largest vessels ever to visit a North American port. It's bigger than the CMA Benjamin Franklin which came to Oakland in 2016. That ship can carry 18,000 20-foot containers.

Over the past decade, the Port has dredged waterways and raised container cranes to receive megaships. The largest cargo

vessels anywhere in North America arrive in Oakland daily, the Port said.

San Francisco Bar Pilots said they coordinated with the shipping line to manage the MSC Anna's arrival. Pilots help navigate ships in and out of San Francisco Bay and guide them to ports. They practiced for the MSC Anna on a massive simulator at the Cal State Maritime Academy in Vallejo.



Port of Oakland shares condolences after dockworker death

The Port of Oakland expressed its condolences following the death of a dockworker. According to reports, a longshore laborer fell to his death March 31, from the deck of a container ship at berth. The Port said the fatal accident was under investigation by local authorities.

"This is a tragedy that strikes everyone very deeply," said Port of Oakland Maritime Director John Driscoll. "The waterfront is a tightly knit community and if a member of that community succumbs, we all share the grief."

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union confirmed that the accident victim was one of its members. Longshore workers are hired by marine terminals to load and unload ships and move cargo containers.

The Port pointed out that workers including longshore labor are on the job despite the shelter-in-place orders issued in the face of the coronavirus crisis. That's because the Port has been designated as critical infrastructure during the crisis.

"All of those on the front-line of the supply chain have our heartfelt gratitude under these trying circumstances," said Mr. Driscoll. "They're keeping the economy going and doing their best to maintain some semblance of normalcy for all of us."

Driscoll departure

Port of Oakland Maritime Director John Driscoll is departing to become Executive Director of the Alabama State Port Authority. A 7-year Port of Oakland veteran, Mr. Driscoll leaves next month. He'll take up his new role at the Port of Mobile June 1.

Mr. Driscoll played a key role in turning around Maritime operations at the Port of Oakland. Under his direction, the Port improved performance and efficiency. It reported record cargo volume in two of the past three years. Among achievements under Mr. Driscoll's leadership in Oakland:

- The introduction of terminal night gates and appointments;
- Development of a \$92-million refrigerated distribution center;
- Raising of four ship-to-shore cranes and purchase of three more for megaships;
- Completion later this year of a \$52 million warehouse at the Seaport Logistics Complex;
- Expansion to double the size of TraPac marine terminal;
- Introduction of Oakland Portal - an online gateway to the Port of Oakland;
- Go Port: a suite of projects to improve traffic movement and cargo flow.

There's no word yet on how the Port will fill the Maritime Director position.



*John C. Driscoll
Maritime Director*



Cool Port Oakland - refrigerated distribution center