

# CANADA Daily News and Updates December 19th 2023

## Ocean Updates

- OOCL Stops Serving Israel Because of 'Operational Issues'
- Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Update

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- Blockbuster' Storm Knocks Out Electricity from New York to Virginia

## Ocean Updates

### OOCL Stops Serving Israel Because of 'Operational Issues'

Chinese container carrier OOCL has decided to suspend all shipments to and from Israeli seaports, the company announced Saturday.

"Due to operational issues, OOCL will stop cargo acceptance to and from Israel with immediate effect until further notice," the firm said in a one-sentence statement on its website.

At least four container lines have abandoned shipping through the Red Sea and the Suez Canal because of the ongoing threat of attack from Houthi forces in northern Yemen. MSC, CMA CGM, Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd have all signaled that they will take the Cape of Good Hope route, avoiding the risk of missile strikes, drone attacks or hijackings near Bab el-Mandeb.

The Houthi movement has threatened to attack any ship carrying cargo to Israel, and the militant group has the full width of the Red Sea in range off Hodeidah. By stopping service to Israel, OOCL appears to satisfy the Houthis' political conditions for safe passage.

Read more in an [article from The Maritime Executive](#).

### Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Update

The Port of Vancouver issued an update on the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 project. The port said it continues to advance the project towards an operations start date in the mid-2030s. In 2024, it will continue:

- Working on its *Species at Risk Act*-compliant *Fisheries Act* Authorization application
- Consulting and collaborating with First Nations on mitigation measures, habitat offsetting projects, and economic opportunities
- Engaging with regulators
- Preparing for a final investment decision and successful construction phase

## **U.S. Business/Government**

### **'Blockbuster' Storm Knocks Out Electricity from New York to Virginia**

A "blockbuster" storm tearing up the East Coast that has already knocked out power to more than 500,000 customers and grounded hundreds of flights promises to bring flooding rain and dangerous winds through Monday.

New York City has received about 1.5 inches of rain since midnight and could get another 1 to 2 inches through Monday, said Rich Otto, a forecaster at the US Weather Prediction Center. Flood warnings and watches reach from Maine to North Carolina for the storm that has already drenched Florida and Charleston, South Carolina.

On the air travel side, 488 flights were canceled through early Monday, with the majority at New York's LaGuardia and John F. Kennedy airports and Boston's Logan International Airport, according to data from FlightAware.

The storm is still strengthening, Otto said.

Read more in an [article from American Journal of Transportation](#).