

CANADA Daily News and Updates March 27th 2024

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Ocean Updates

Baltimore Bridge Collapse Impacts I-95 Shipping, Rail, Trucking and Port of Baltimore

The collapse yesterday of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, after it was hit by a container ship, will disrupt shipping, rail, trucking, the Port of Baltimore and the Mid-Atlantic region served by the I-95 highway corridor, according to one shipping executive.

The executive said: "At this point, nobody knows how long the Port of Baltimore will be closed. It could be weeks, it could be longer. There are still containers in the water, and they have to be retrieved. There is still the damage assessment to the ship to be taken into account. There is also the environmental impact. Right now, we are scrambling to redirect our ships either to Norfolk or to New York/New Jersey and our concern is whether there is sufficient capacity to take the redeployments ..."

The shipping executive went on to say: "In terms of the traffic, the loss of this bridge is huge: There's a lot of vehicles that cross that bridge a day. There is also the impact on trucking and especially on hazmat cargoes that were transiting the bridge that may not use the tunnels. Rail, in and out of Baltimore, will be impacted, both the CSX and the Norfolk Southern."

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

Gemini's Strategy Relies Heavily on Hub Port Performance

The Gemini cooperation agreement between Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd will rely heavily on a small number of transshipment hubs to support its new network. The operational performance of several of the terminals is assessed to be world-class in terms of intensity of asset use, but Drewry highlights that strong performance will be essential if the hub-and-spoke strategy is to succeed.

The planned network streamlines the number of port calls in each region with the aim of reducing disruption. As a result, the loops are focused heavily on 'hub & spoke' transshipment hubs supported by high-capacity dedicated shuttle loops that link the regional hubs with other gateway ports. In total, the mainline services will call at only 56 ports, with a further 29 ports served by dedicated shuttles.

Read more in an [article from Drewry](#).

Global Greenhouse Gas Levy Likely in 2027

The 81st meeting of the Maritime Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) wrapped up at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) last week with a greenhouse gas (GHG) levy now likely to be introduced by 2027.

According to a read-out from UMAS, London-based watchers of green shipping regulation, there was positive momentum built at the meeting, with an increased number and diversity of countries supporting a GHG levy.

“The MEPC has agreed on a framework for the mid-term measures, including a fuel standard and an economic measure, as well as set up the necessary expert groups, laying the foundation for an agreement that will deliver on the target of net-zero by 2050,” read a statement from the World Shipping Council, liner shipping’s lobby group.

“We will have a pricing mechanism,” said the IMO’s secretary-general, Arsenio Dominguez, in a meeting with journalists at the organization’s London headquarters. “Of that, I have no doubt.”

Read more in an [article from Splash](#).

Customs Regulatory

Indian Customs to Auction Uncleared Export Boxes at Nhava Sheva

India Customs will auction abandoned or long-dwelling consignments at Nhava Sheva in a bid to dispose of export goods left uncleared by cargo interests.

Abandoned export/import containers have the potential to create congestion at docks as volumes build, hindering the pace of cargo flows.

The clearance sales will be held in co-ordination with the custodian of the cargo: typically, a customs-bonded warehouse or container freight station.

The move has won support from freight station owners and other logistics stakeholders in Nhava Sheva. The last similar auction of ‘orphaned’ export cargo was in 2009.

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