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Air Updates

SAF Production Expected to Triple in 2024 but More Opportunities for Diversification Needed

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced that its projections for a tripling of sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) production in 2024 to 1.9 billion liters (1.5 million tonnes) are on track. This would account for 0.53% of aviation's fuel need in 2024. To accelerate SAF use, there are several policy measures that governments could take.

"SAF will provide about 65% of the mitigation needed for airlines to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. So the expected tripling of SAF production in 2024 from 2023 is encouraging. We still have a long way to go, but the direction of exponential increases is starting to come into focus," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General.

Read more in a [press release from IATA](#).

Ocean Updates

Panama Canal Increases Maximum Draft Ahead of Schedule

The Panama Canal Authority announced on May 30 an increase in the maximum authorized draft of the Panama Canal's Neopanamax locks to 45 feet, bringing it closer to the normal limit of 50 feet. This adjustment, originally scheduled for June 15, comes in anticipation of the rainy season in the Panama Canal watershed and the current and projected levels of Gatun Lake.

The announcement comes days before the Authority is scheduled to add one extra transit in the Neopanamax locks, bringing the total number of daily transits to 32, up from a low of 24.

The Panama Canal is slowly returning to normal operations after over a year of restrictions due to a severe drought.

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

Singapore Reopens Defunct Container Terminals to Tackle Vessel Bunching

Authorities battling congestion in Singapore have reopened shuttered terminals to alleviate the mounting pressure on the world's largest transshipment hub.

The Maritime & Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) on May 30 announced that port operator PSA had "reactivated older berths and yards that have previously been decanted at Keppel Terminal," which has upped the port's weekly handling capacity from 770,000 TEU to 820,000.

It said that, although box volumes in the port over the first four months of 2024 had grown 8.8% year on year, to 13.36 million TEU, the problems had largely been caused by carriers seeking to play catch-up in their schedules at Singapore.

"We have seen large increases in container volumes and the "bunching" of container vessel arrivals over the previous months, due to supply chain disruptions in upstream locations," said the MPA.

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

International Business/Government

WTO Members Hold First Formal Meeting on Dispute Settlement Reform

WTO members met at Heads of Delegation level on May 30 for their first formal meeting on dispute settlement reform, with an initial focus on how to resolve issues regarding appeal/review and accessibility. The facilitator of the process, Ambassador Usha Dwarka-Canabady of Mauritius, said the discussions revealed a "strong appreciation for the dispute settlement system overall" as a core element of the WTO system.

The facilitator reminded members that the purpose of the monthly Heads of Delegation (HODs) meetings is to hear updates on the technical work to be carried out by experts and to allow members to share views on how to take the work forward. The meetings are also intended to resolve issues that can be handled only at the HODs level and allow HODs to provide political guidance to experts, as necessary. Technical work will continue solely amongst experts and should remain interest-based and solution-oriented, she said.

Read more in a [press release from the WTO](#).