

CANADA Daily News and Updates January 21st 2025

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Ocean Updates

Yemen's Houthi Rebels Agree to Lift Red Sea Blockade

On Sunday, Yemen's Houthi rebels announced plans to phase down their campaign against shipping in the Red Sea, beginning with a cessation of hostilities against "non-Israeli" vessels.

The group's "Humanitarian Operations Coordination Centre" issued a statement on Sunday reporting that the group is lifting its yearlong blockade on shipping in the Red Sea, following implementation of the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza last week. The first phase was a prisoner exchange between Israeli forces and Hamas; this took place successfully on Sunday with a trade of 90 Palestinian suspects for three Israeli hostages.

The centre said that going forward, it would not attack most categories of ships, including ships bound for Israel; American or British ships; vessels partly owned by Israeli interests; or vessels operated by Israeli interests but owned by other nationalities. The Houthis still plan to attack vessels that are wholly Israeli-owned or are Israeli-flagged, at least until all phases of the ceasefire agreement are implemented. These fully-Israeli vessels are "prohibited from transiting the Red Sea, Bab-el-Mandeb, the Gulf of Aden, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean at present," the HOCC said.

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

Container TEU-Mile Growth Could Go into Reverse if Red Sea Transits Resume

Ocean container TEU-mile trade grew 18% year on year in 2024, to 1,171 TEU per mile, mainly due to vessel detours to avoid the Red Sea, according to a Clarksons report.

Container TEU-mile trade is a measure of the volume of goods transported in boxes, and is often used to analyze global trade patterns.

Global container trade grew 5%, to 211.6 million TEU, helping to support shipping demand, wrote Clarksons analyst Trevor Crowe.

"Approximately 700 vessels were re-routing via the Cape of Good Hope for most of 2024," said Crowe, "generating a 12% 'distance kicker' which supported an impressive 18% growth in TEU-mile container trade.

“Container port congestion, often a knock-on impact from Red Sea disruption, also impacted, with various “hotspots” at times tying up as much as 4% of fleet capacity.”

Looking ahead, the Gaza ceasefire could usher in overcapacity. Based on expected fleet growth of 5% this year, a resumption of Red Sea transits could cause demand for container shipping to dip by 4%, as opposed to demand growth of 3% if Cape of Good Hope detours continue.

Clarksons has calculated that TEU-mile trade could drop by 8% this year if containerships resumed all Red Sea crossings.

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

U.S. Business/Government

Disruptive Winter Storm Bringing Snow, Ice, Frigid Temperatures to Gulf Coast This Week

Another strong, disruptive winter weather event will unfold across the U.S. this week, but this time the Gulf Coast is preparing for impacts.

Polar air is plunging south from Canada to start the week and meeting with moisture across the Gulf Coast from East Texas to Florida. As a centre of low pressure moves over the Gulf, the storm will strengthen and bring snowfall of 3 to 5 inches, ice accumulation of up to 1 inch, and temperatures down into the upper teens and low 20s.

Forecasters are calling this a “once in a generation” snow event as the far southern parts of the U.S. have recorded measurable snowfall only a handful of times.

Houston, New Orleans and Mobile, Alabama, are all bracing for major impacts due to the snow and ice; all cities lack infrastructure to easily deal with even minor accumulations, so anything over 1 to 2 inches could cause significant damage and interruption to services, including transportation. Ice accumulations will probably cause power outages and slick travel and snow accumulations will impact roadways, likely causing accidents.

Both Houston Hobby Airport and George Bush Intercontinental Airport have suspended passenger and cargo flight operations on Tuesday due to the expected conditions.

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