

# CANADA Daily News and Updates August 2nd 2022

## Ocean Updates

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## Ocean Updates

### Record Container Ship Traffic Jam as Backlog Continues to Build

If you only look at Los Angeles and Long Beach – the largest container import gateway in America – you'd think shipping congestion has drastically dropped. The number of ships waiting there has fallen to 26 from a high of 109 in January. But in fact, North American port congestion has just re-entered record territory. The offshore traffic jam is once again as bad as it's ever been.

In January and February, when North American congestion previously peaked, there were just under 150 container vessels waiting off the coastlines. Two-thirds were in the Los Angeles/Long Beach queue.

As of Thursday morning, there were 153, the majority off East and Gulf Coast ports. Whereas the earlier West Coast pileup was centralized, highly publicized and relatively easy to track, today's ship queue is more widely dispersed and attracting less attention.

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

### Hapag-Lloyd Raises Earnings Outlook After First-Half Growth

German ocean carrier Hapag-Lloyd posted earnings growth in the first half of 2022 as higher freight rates offset flat volumes, leading the liner to raise its full year outlook by as much as 30%.

Transport volumes in the first six months of the year hit 6 million TEU, about the same level of the previous year. At the same time, the average freight rate increased by approximately 80%, Hapag-Lloyd said.

Based on the first-half performance, Hapag-Lloyd said the second half of the year should exceed earlier expectations.

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

## **New FMC Bureau Created to Enforce U.S. Shipping Act**

The U.S. Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) has reorganized its investigative and prosecution functions, consolidating them into the newly created Bureau of Enforcement, Investigations and Compliance (BEIC) effective immediately.

“Robust enforcement of the Shipping Act is absolutely key to the effectiveness of the Federal Maritime Commission,” said chairman Daniel Maffei in a release. “This reorganization has the support of all five commissioners and creates a structure better suited to meeting the mandate the president and Congress have given this agency to prioritize enforcement. Specifically, it enhances FMC’s capacity to closely scrutinize the conduct of the ocean carrier companies and marine terminal operators to ensure compliance with the law and fairness for American importers and exporters.”

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

## **U.S. Slows Ships on East Coast to Save Whales**

Vessels off the U.S. East Coast must slow down more often to help save a vanishing species of whale from extinction, the federal government said Friday.

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration made the announcement via new proposed rules designed to prevent ships colliding with North Atlantic right whales. Vessel strikes and entanglement in fishing gear are the two biggest threats to the giant animals, which number less than 340 and are falling in population.

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

## **Rail and Truck Updates**

### **Canada’s Spot Market Beginning to Normalize: Loadlink**

Canada’s spot market saw an influx of capacity amid softening freight demand in June, according to Loadlink Technologies.

The shift signals a return to normalization. Spot market loads fell 23% from record May volumes, but remained 7% higher year over year.

Outbound freight to the U.S. dropped 53% from May, but remained up 21% from last June. Inbound cross-border loads fell 34% from May and were down 6% year over year. Domestic loads dipped 21% from May, but remained 25% stronger year over year.

Read more in an [article from Today's Trucking](#).

### **Trucking Looks for New Owner-Operator Strategies as Independent Contractor Model is Threatened in U.S.**

Motor carriers that use owner-operators in California are working to re-evaluate their operations in order to meet strict restrictions on the use of independent contractors, as labour officials at the national level push to crack down on “employee misclassification.”

Recent independent trucker protests that brought the Port of Oakland to a crawl gained plenty of media attention, but California Governor Gavin Newsom's office indicated a lack of concern.

Many motor carriers already have been taking action, or at least researching their options.

Read more in an [article from Heavy Duty Trucking](#).