PNA COVID-19 Purse Seine Dashboard

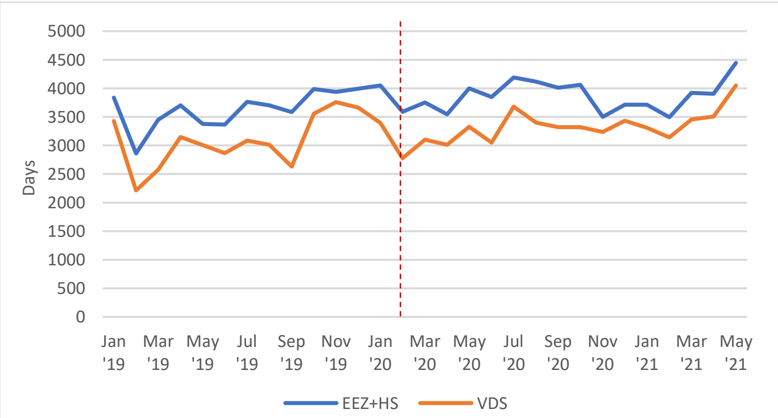
June 2021

Key trends:

- Preliminary figures indicate that overall purse seine fishing days and fishing intensity (fishing days/calendar day) rose in sharply in May. The preliminary VDS figure of 4049 days is the highest monthly effort since June 2014. Note that May figures may be adjusted as NFDs are processed.
- Total purse seine catch fell slightly in May, but remained high relative to the '20-'21 period. Fishing effort shifted east, with KI accounting for around 40% of EEZ+HS effort. Catch was highest in KI, NR and the HS.
- Based on preliminary figures, overall catch rates fell in May. Catch rates for SKJ fell sharply, while catch rates of large YFT rose after a number of months at very low levels.
- Transhipment volumes fell sharply in May, albeit remained high relative to the '20-'21 period. Transhipment activity shifted east with volumes highest in KI. Majuro volumes rose >200% on April figures, while PNG volume was around ¼ of the April volume.
- Bangkok SKJ prices fell slightly (from $1340 in April to $1280 in May) according to Thai Union figures. Singapore MGO price rose in May and has now recovered much of the ground to pre-pandemic levels. The differential between SKJ price and Singapore MGO price is now clearly below the 10 yr average.
- Thailand is continuing to experience its most pronounced spike of cases to date in the pandemic, with around 4,000 new cases daily at end June. Reports of new daily cases in PNG have fallen to around 25 per day by end June.

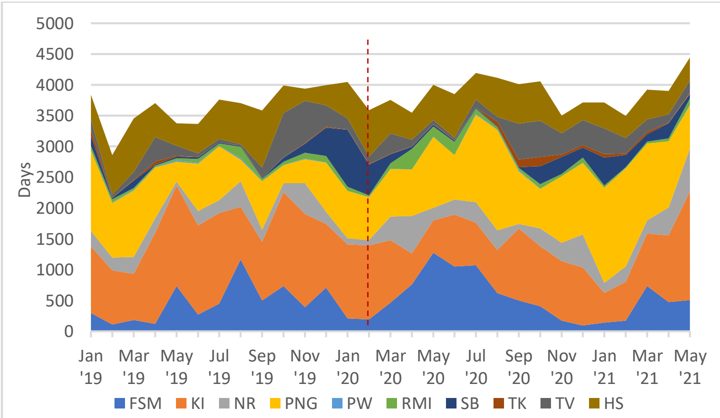
Fishing effort

Overall effort (PNA EEZs+HS)



- Overall fishing effort (EEZ+HS) rose sharply in May, with fishing intensity (fishing days/calendar day) also rising slightly. The preliminary VDS figure of 4049 days is the highest monthly effort since June 2014. Note that May figures are preliminary and may reduce slightly as NFD applications are processed.

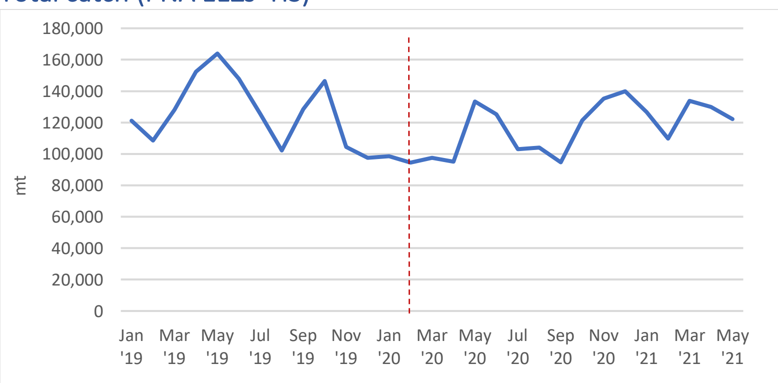
Distribution of effort (EEZs)



- Effort shifted east in May with KI accounting for 40% of overall effort. Effort also rose in NR, RMI and TV. PNG's effort fell to the lowest level since Oct '20.
- Preliminary figures indicate effort remained east in June with considerable effort in the HS, KI and NR.

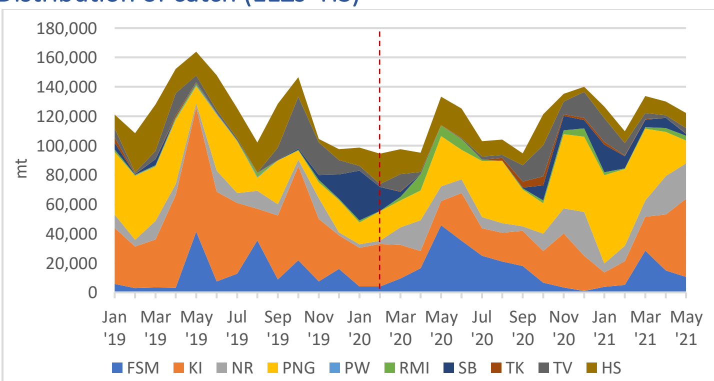
Catch

Total catch (PNA EEZs+HS)



- Catch (EEZ+HS) in May (122,233t) fell by around 6% on the Apr figure, albeit remained at high volumes relative to the '20-'21 period. May catch figures are preliminary and may be adjusted upwards slightly as additional reports are received.

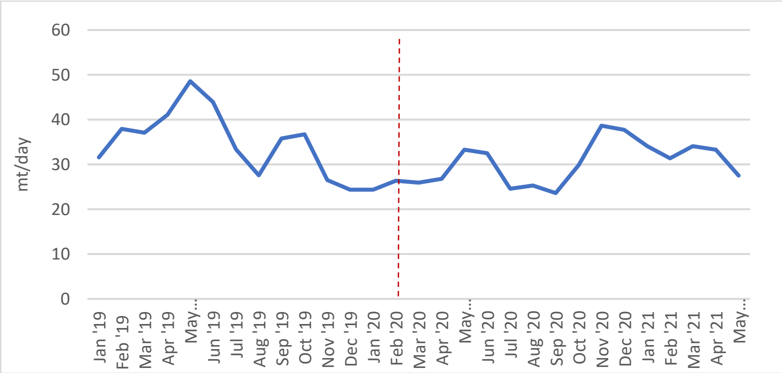
Distribution of catch (EEZs+HS)



- The eastwards shift in catch starting in Apr continued in May, with KI, NR and the HSV accounting for 72% of total catch. KI accounted for 44% of total catch, recording its highest EEZ catch since Oct '19. Catches in PNG fell by around ½.

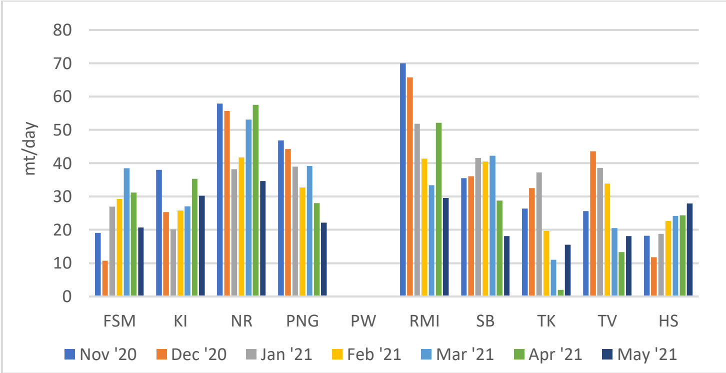
Catch rates

Overall (PNA EEZs+HS)



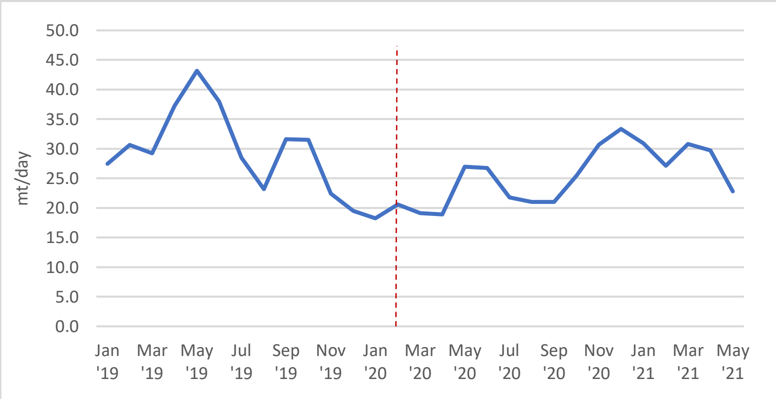
- Overall catch rates fell in May, down around 17% on the Apr figures. These figures are preliminary and may be adjusted slightly as NFDs are processed and additional e-reporting is received.

Catch rate by zone (EEZs)



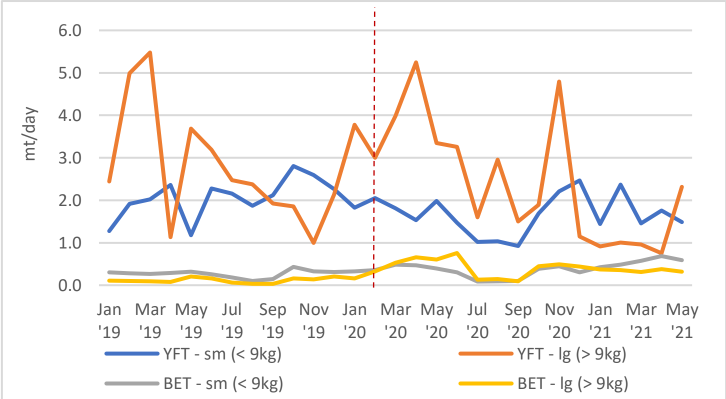
- Preliminary figures indicate that catch rates were broadly down across the board, although catch rates in TK, TV and the HS rose slightly. PNG recorded its lowest catch rate since Jan '20.

Skipjack



- SKJ catch rate fell by around 23% in May, falling to its lowest level since Sept '20.

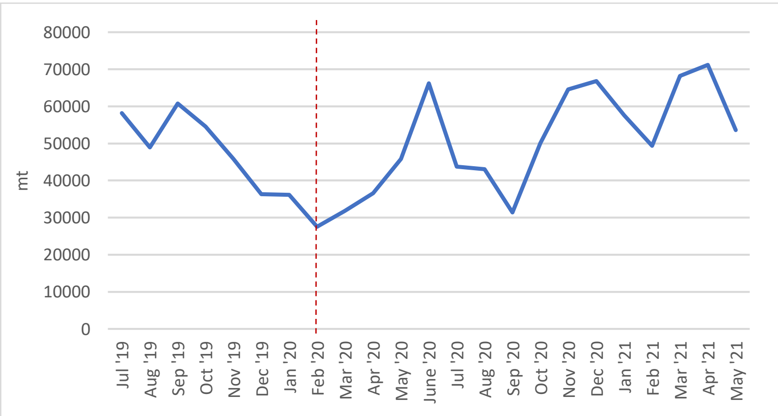
Other species



- Amongst the other purse seine species/size categories, catch rates of large YFT rose sharply in May after several months of very low catch rates. Catch rates of small YFT fell slightly, with BET stable.

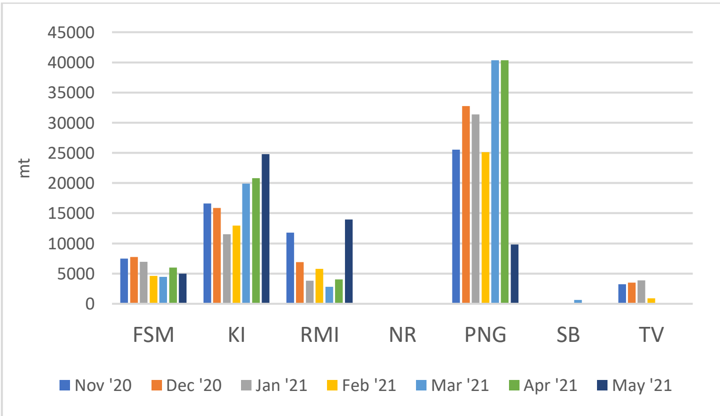
Transhipment

Volume



- Transhipment volumes in PNA ports fell sharply in May (from 71,194t to 53,594t), albeit remained higher than the early period of the pandemic.

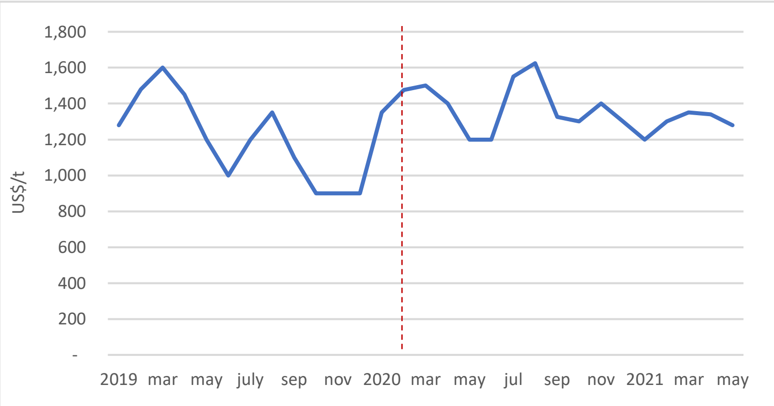
Location



- Transhipment volumes were highest in KI, accounting for around 46% of all PNA volume. Volumes rose sharply in RMI, increasing >200% on the April figures. By contrast, volumes in PNG fell sharply, making up less than a quarter of the April volumes.

Prices

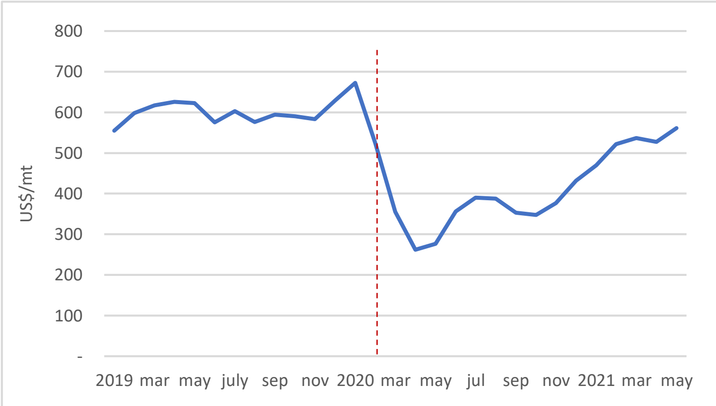
SKJ Price



https://investor.thaiunion.com/raw_material.html

- Thai Union report that Bangkok SKJ prices decreased marginally to $1280 in May, down from $1340 in Apr. The 2021 figure of $1280 is the highest May price for 3 years, but well below prices in 2016-18. As at end June '21, Atuna reports that Bangkok CFR price for SKJ remaned stable at $1,300. Manta price had fallen to $1350.

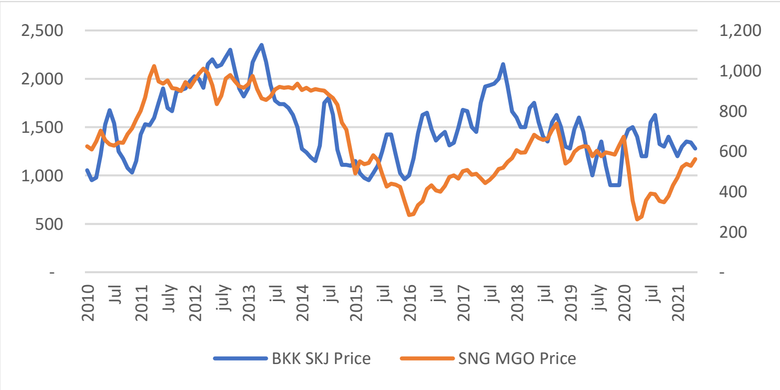
Fuel price



https://shipandbunker.com/prices/apac/sea/sg-sin-singapore#MGO

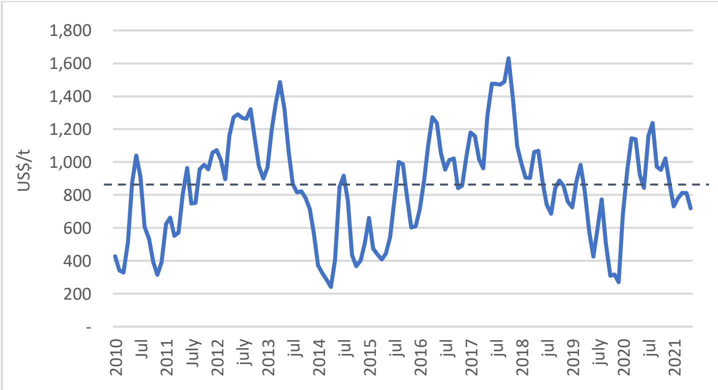
- Singapore MGO price climbed sharply in May, averaging US$562/mt. Price has recovered much of the ground lost during the early period of the pandemic. remains below pre-COVID levels, but has recovered much of the ground. As of June 28th 2021, price had risen to $606/mt.

BKK SKJ Price vs Fuel price



- BKK SKJ price and Singapore MGO price converged sharply in May, largely driven by the rise in fuel price. The two prices are as close as they've been since the start of the pandemic.

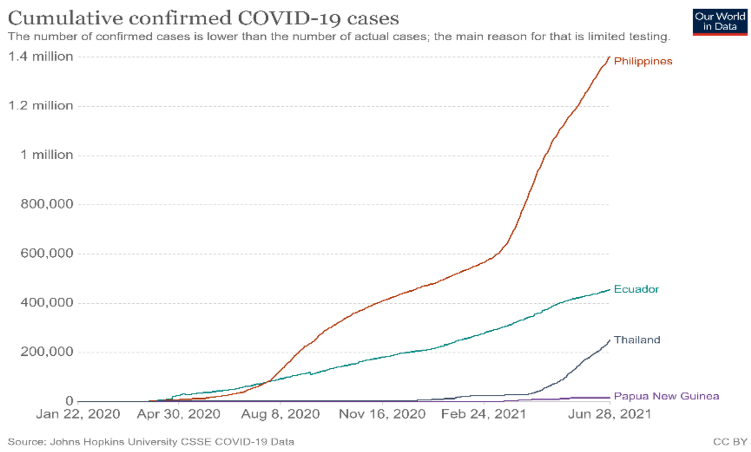
Price differential (BKK SKJ – Fuel)



- The price differential between BKK SKJ price and Singapore MGO fell sharply in May to $719. The May figure is now clearly below the average 10 year price difference of $851.

COVID-19 in processing countries

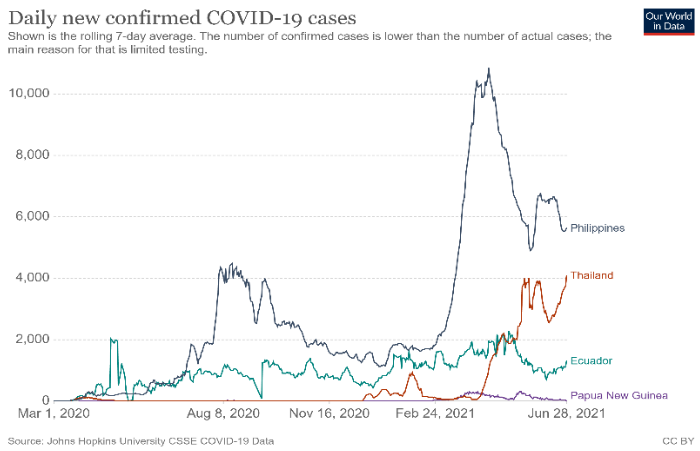
Total cases



https://ourworldindata.org/covid-cases

- Thailand continues to fare comparatively better than other key processing centres including Ecuador and the Philippines in terms of total confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Daily confirmed cases

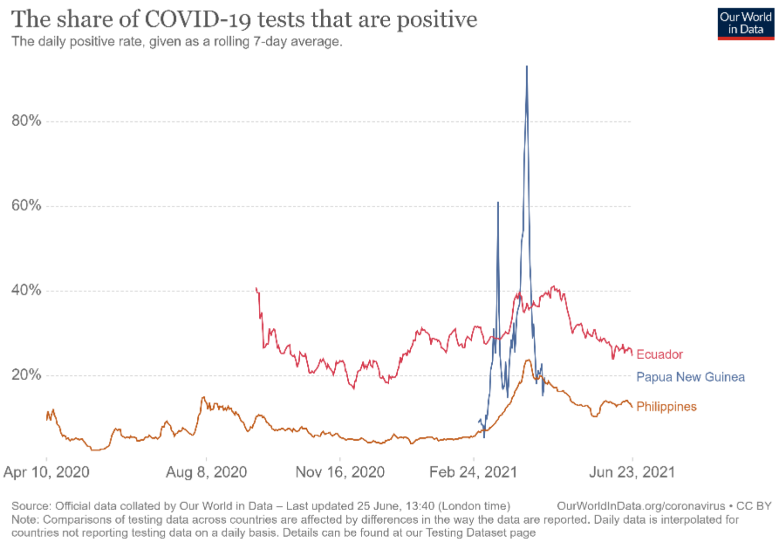


https://ourworldindata.org/covid-cases

- The number of new cases in the Philippines has fallen substantially from a peak in April, 2021. However, Thailand is currently experiencing it's worst peak of the pandemic, with around 4,000 new cases per day in recent days.

Other issues:

- As at May 20th, PNG is reported to have a cumulative total of 17,098 confirmed COVID cases, Solomon Is 20, Marshall Is 4, Kiribati 2 and FSM 1[1].
- Reports of new daily cases in PNG fell to around 25/day at end June. The 'positive rate' (proportion of COVID tests that are positive) was highly variable, but is not available with confidence from April onwards. Amongst other processing countries, Ecuador's 'positive rate' remains high, albeit falling, while Philippines is also falling. Thai data was not available.



- Nauru has reportedly vaccinated around 70% of the population with at least one dose by 21st June, while Tuvalu had reportedly vaccinated around 40% by June 15th[2]. RMI has reportedly fully vaccinated 54% of the population over 18, with 74% fully vaccinated in Majuro. PNG and Solomon Is continue to report low rates of vaccination. Around 80% of the Palau population has reportedly received at least one dose[3].
- RMI has commenced a program offering vaccinations to fishing vessel crew in Majuro[4]. Under the program fishers will be offered the 'one jab' Johnson and Johnson shot, with 50 fishers reportedly vaccinated on the first day. PNA Ministers called on stakeholders, including the donor community, to assit with sourcing around 40,000 doses for seafarers and port workers.[5]
- Atuna reports that the Thai Union group's Songkhla Canning PLC was declared a COVID cluster in June with 293 cases linked to the facility[6]. The cannery was shut down on June 23/24 for disinfecting. The Princes Tuna factory in Mauritius was also reportedly declared a COVID-19 cluster in mid-June with 19 cases linked to the facility[7].
- COVID cases in Chinas's Yantian port have reportedly further exacerbated existing global congestion and container shortages[8]. Atuna report that high freight costs associated with carrier and container shortages have impacted skipjack activity in Bangkok[9].

Notes:

- Data on catch, effort, catch rates and transhipment is based on electronic reporting through iFIMS as at 29th June, 2021. Some data may change as more information is added over time. Figures for May 2021 should be considered preliminary.
- The EEZs+HS effort figures in the fishing effort graph do not include a VDS vessel size adjustment factor. The actual VDS usage figures are adjusted for vessel size. HS days may include some non-fishing time. HS effort figures are those for the eastern high seas and HSPs 4 and 5.
- A dashed-red line has been on many graphs at February 2020 to provide an indication of the time in which COVID-related restrictions were becoming more common globally and regionally.

[1] https://ourworldindata.org/covid-cases
[2] https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations
[3] https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/us-covid-19-share-people-vaccinated?country=~Republic+of+Palau
[4] https://atuna.com/news/marshall-islands-set-vaccination-program-for-fishers
[5] https://atuna.com/news/pacific-ministers-want-vaccination-efforts-to-be-extended-to-all-pna-ports
[6] https://atuna.com/news/thai-union-s-songkla-tuna-cannery-a-covid-19-cluster
[7] https://atuna.com/news/princes-tuna-cannery-in-mauritius-a-covid-19-cluster
[8] https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/major-shipping-firms-warn-worsening-congestion-chinas-yantian-port-2021-06-03/
[9] https://atuna.com/news/tuna-sector-heavily-impacted-by-freight-costs-chaos