PNA COVID-19 Purse Seine Dashboard

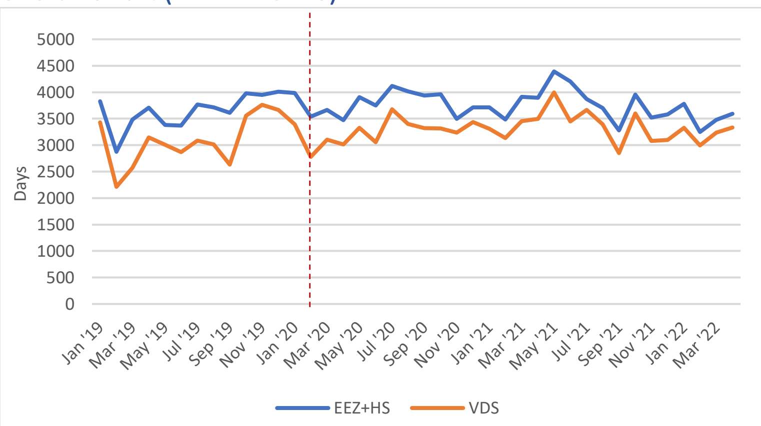
May 2022

Key trends:

- Preliminary figures indicate that both overall purse seine fishing days and VDS day usage rose slightly in April, with fishing intensity (fishing days/calendar day) increasing around 7%. Note that April figures may be adjusted as NFDs are processed.
- Total purse seine catch (EEZs+HS) rose in April, up by around 16% on the March total. Higher catch was largely driven by increases in SKJ volume, with YFT catches remaining relatively stable. Catch and effort remained broadly concentrated in the west, with catches highest in PNG.
- Based on preliminary figures, overall catch rates rose in April, reaching the highest catch rate since December '20. SKJ catch rates rose sharply, while catch rates of large YFT fell to low levels.
- Transhipment volumes rose, up by around 21% on March volumes. Transhipments were highest in PNG and RMI, collectively accounting for around 81% of total volume.
- Bangkok SKJ prices averaged $1800 in April, down from $1900 in March, according to Thai Union figures. Singapore MGO price contiued it's sharp rise, averaging $1,144/mt in April.
- Amongst key SE Asian processing countries, new case numbers in Vietnam have fallen sharply from over 250,000 new cases per/day in mid March to <3,000/day in mid-May. Thailand's new daily case numbers have fallen to <7,000/day, while cases in Philippines, Indonesia and Ecuador have fallen to low levels. Amongst PNA Parties, new case numbers remain high in the Solomons and Palau, but have fallen in Kiribati. RMI reported 10 new cases in April, all in managed quarantine facilities, with no community transmission. FSM and Nauru also have a small number of active cases in managed facilities with no community transmission.

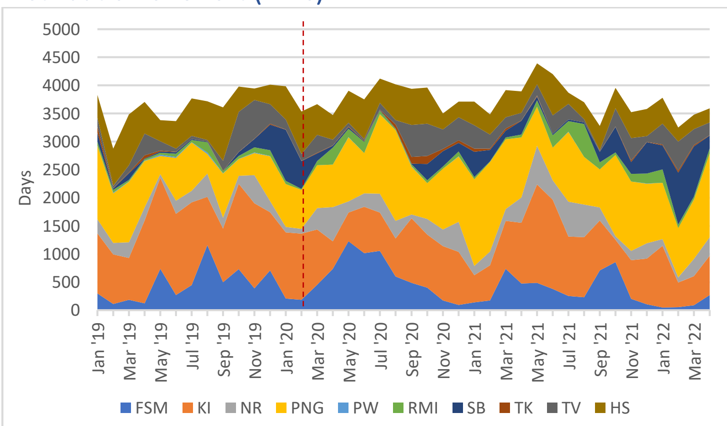
Fishing effort

Overall effort (PNA EEZs+HS)



- Both overall fishing effort (EEZ+HS) and VDS day usage rose in Apr. Fishing intensity (fishing days/calendar day) also increased by around 7%. VDS usage was roughly around the average for Apr during the 2015-2022 period.

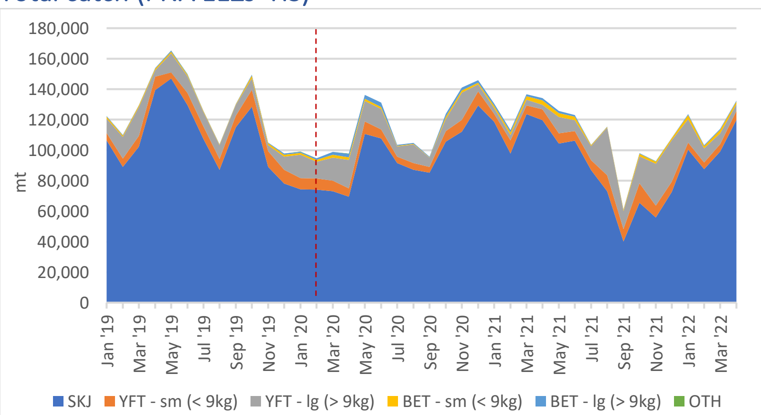
Distribution of effort (EEZs)



- Effort was highest in the west, with PNG accounting for 45% of PNA EEZ effort. Effort rose in PNG, FSM and KI, but fell in SB. Preliminary figures indicate effort remains concentrated in the west in May, with high levels of effort in PNG.

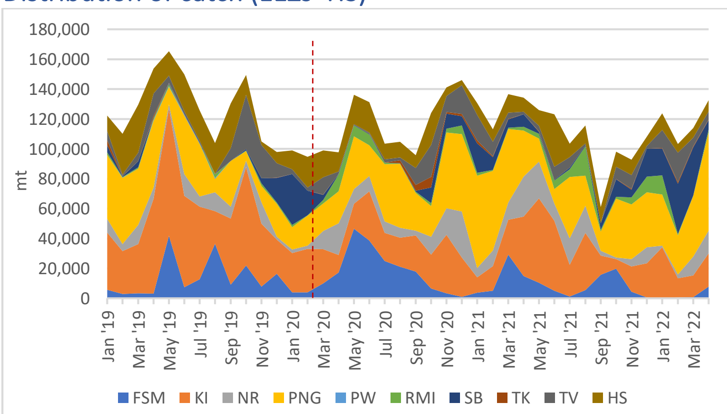
Catch

Total catch (PNA EEZs+HS)



- Total catch (EEZ+HS) rose further in Apr, up around 16% on the Mar total (132,530t vs 113,970t). The increase was largely driven by increased SKJ catch, with YFT remaining stable. The Apr catch was the highest monthly catch since Apr '21.

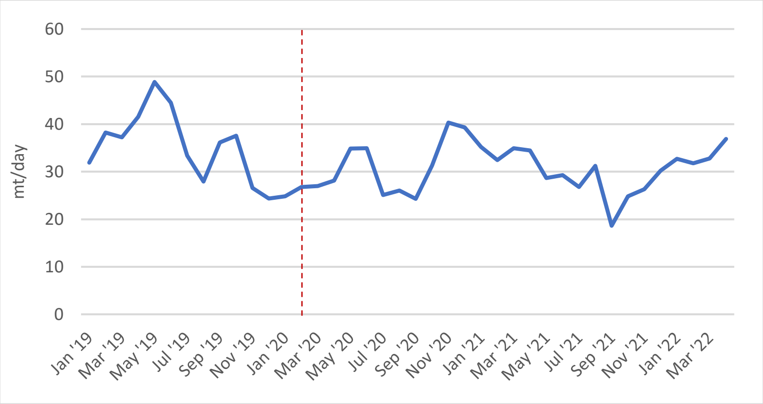
Distribution of catch (EEZs+HS)



- Catches broadly reflected effort, with catches highest in PNG, accounting for around 49% the total EEZ+HS catch. Catches rose in KI and FSM, but fell sharply in SB.

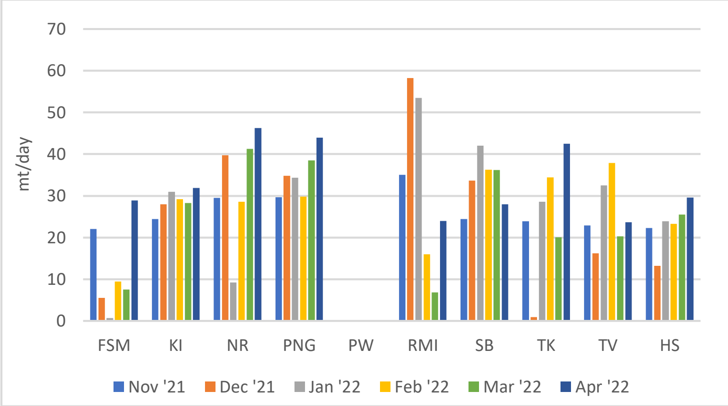
Catch rates

Overall (PNA EEZs+HS)



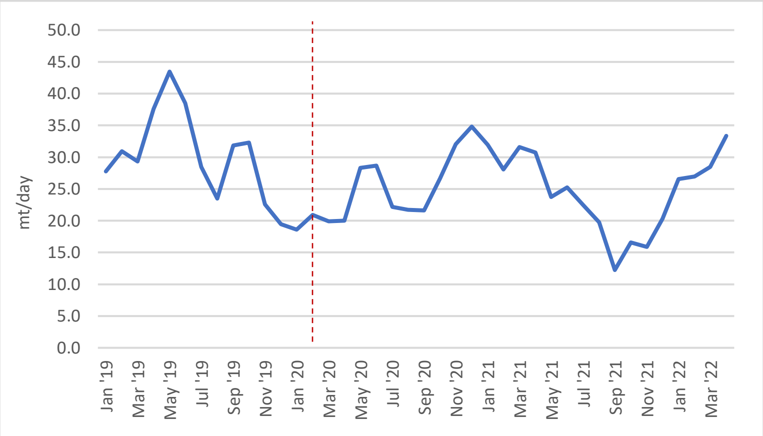
- Overall catch rates continued to rise in Apr, sitting above average for the 2019-2021 period. The Apr catch rate was the highest since Dec ’20. These figures are preliminary and may be adjusted slightly as NFDs are processed and additional e-reporting is received.

Catch rate by zone (EEZs)



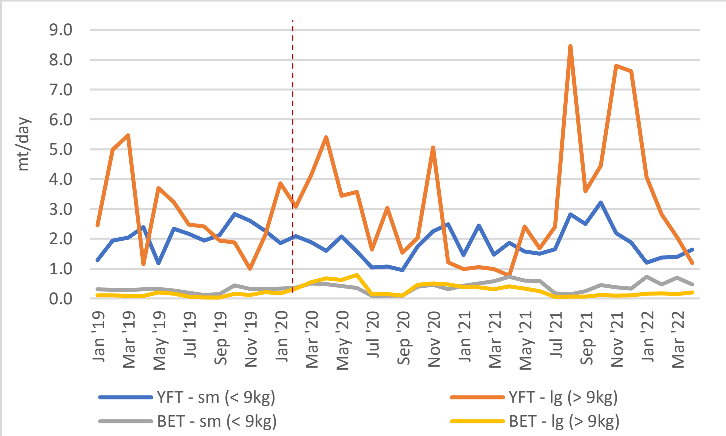
- Preliminary figures indicate that catch rates broadly increased across the region, with rates highest in NR, PNG and TK. SB was the only zone in which catch rates fell.

Skipjack



- SKJ catch rate contiued to rise in Apr, reaching the highest level since Dec ’20 and the second highest level since Jun ’19.

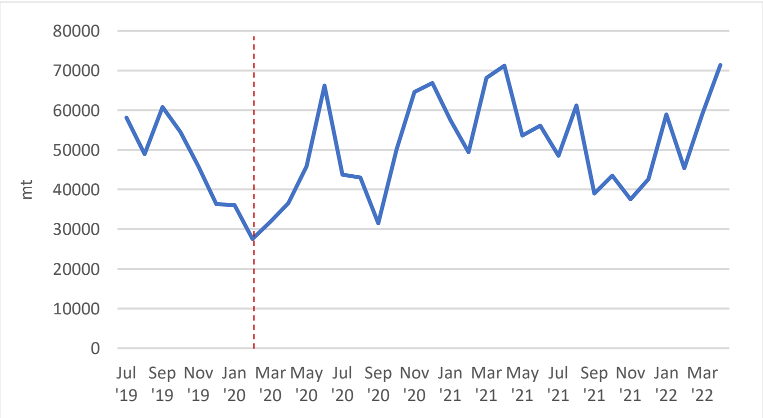
Other species



- Amongst the other purse seine species/size categories, catch rates of large YFT fell to low levels. Catch rates of small YFT rose slightly, while small BET fell.

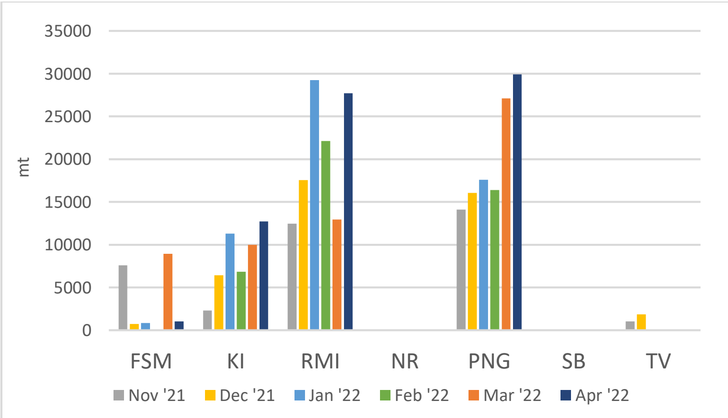
Transhipment

Volume



- Transhipment volumes in PNA ports rose in Apr, up by around 21% on Mar volumes (from 58,985t to 71,397t). The Apr transhipment volume was the highest since the start of the pandemic.

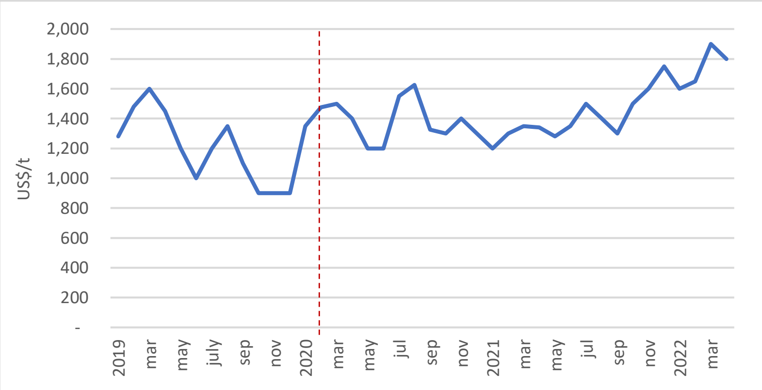
Location



- Transhipment volumes were highest in PNG and RMI ports, collectively accounting for around 81% of overall volume. Transhipments in KI remained steady, while volumes in other Party ports remained low.

Prices

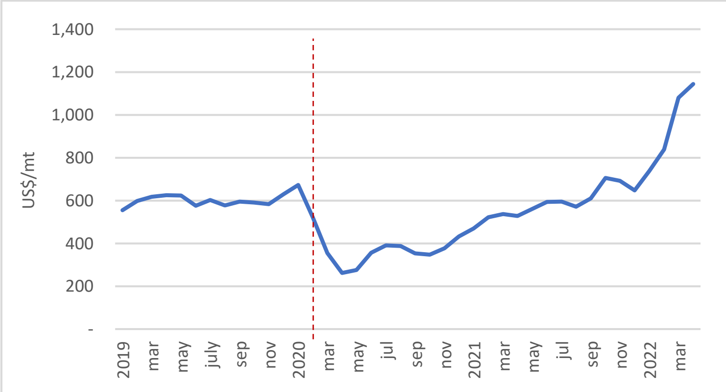
SKJ Price



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

- Thai Union report that Bangkok SKJ prices averaged around $1800 in Apr, down from $1900 in Mar. The Apr '22 price is the highest monthly Apr price since 2018.

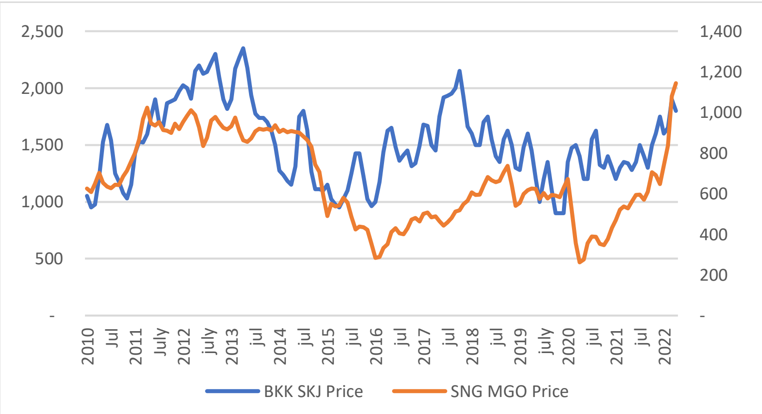
Fuel price



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

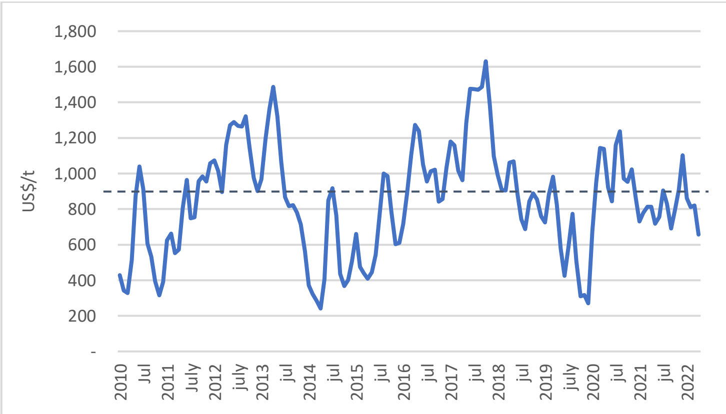
- Singapore MGO price continued to rise Apr, averaging US$1,144/mt, up from US$1,080/mt in Mar. The Apr '22 price was more than double the price in Feb '20, immediately prior to the pandemic. Price in May has remained relatively stable, sitting at US$1,179/mt as at May 16th.

BKK SKJ Price vs Fuel price



- In Apr, the Singapore MGO price line moved 'above' the BKK SKJ price for the first time substantially since the start of the pandemic, with fuel price rising and SKJ price falling.

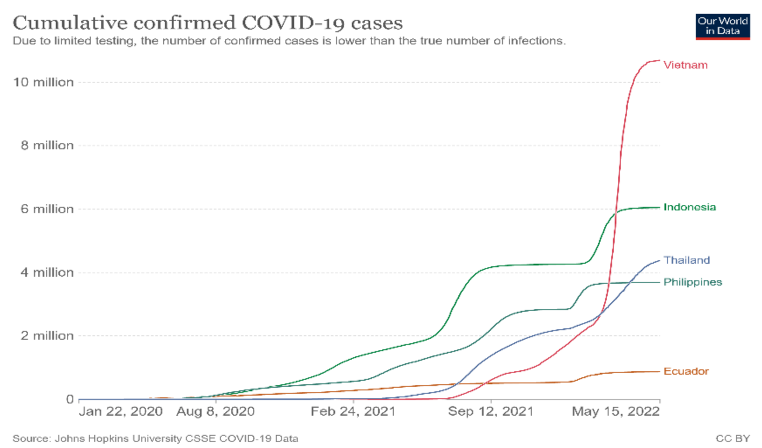
Price differential (BKK SKJ – Fuel)



- The price differential between BKK SKJ price and Singapore MGO fell substantially to US$656 in Apr, down from US$821 in Mar. The differential is now well below the 10yr average of around US$877.

COVID-19 in processing countries

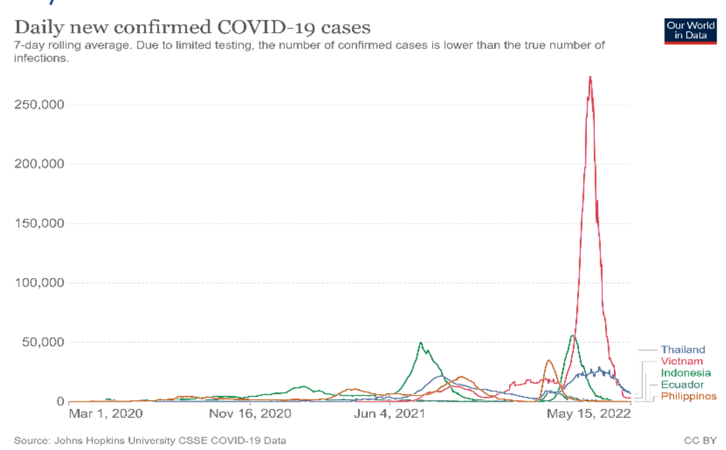
Total cases



https://ourworldindata.org/covid-cases

- Vietnam's recent spike in cases saw it surpass Indonesia as having highest cumulative case numbers amongst SE Asian processing countries, although numbers have now levelled off.

Daily confirmed cases

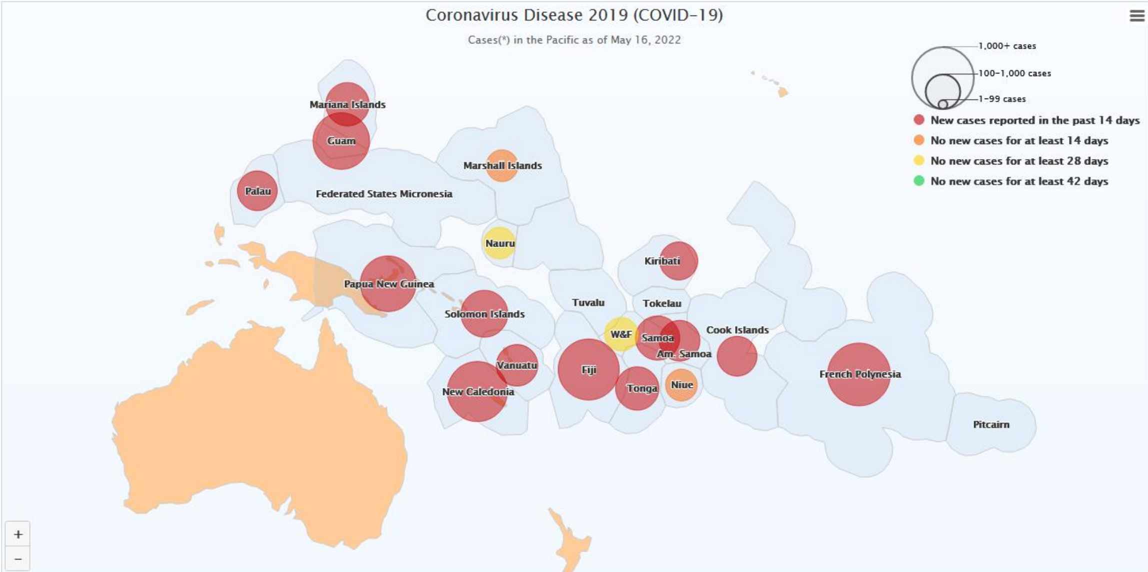


https://ourworldindata.org/covid-cases

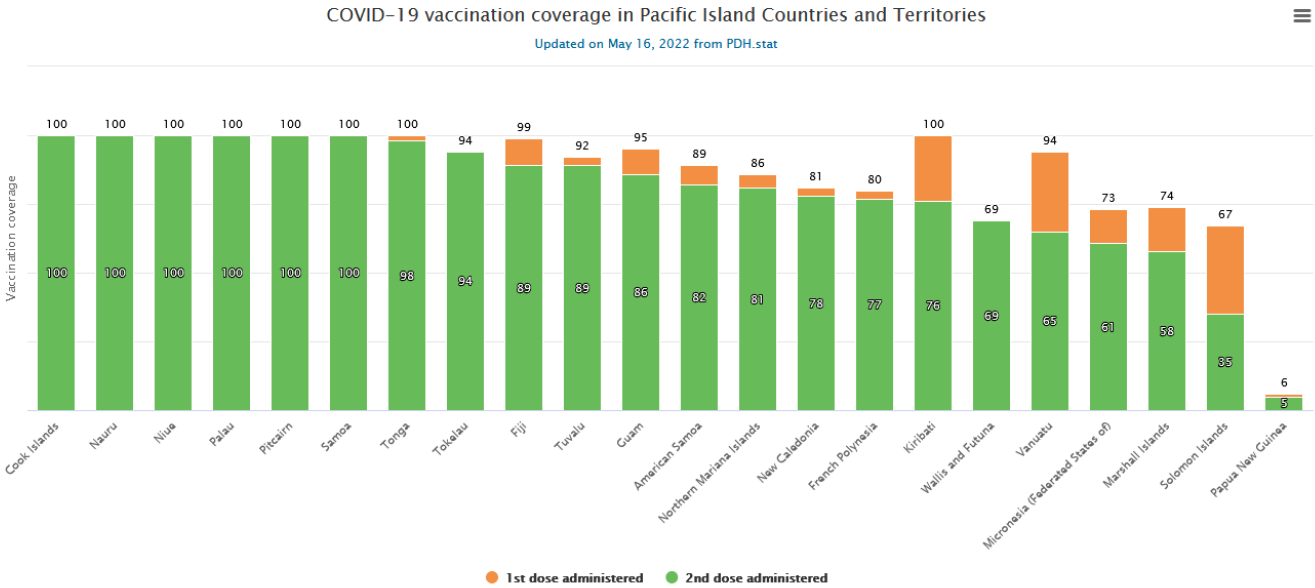
- The severe spike in cases in Vietnam in Mar has declined just as quickly, with new case numbers falling from over 250,000/day in mid-March to <3,000 on May 15. Thailand's case numbers have also fallen to <7,000/ mid May.

Other issues:

- Amongst the PNA Parties, PNG, Solomon Is, Palau and Kiribati have experienced high levels of COVID community transmission. Daily new case numbers in SB remain relatively high with 2,497 new cases reported in the 14 days to 16th May[1]. Cases numbers in KI have fallen with only 9 new cases reported in the 14 days to 16th May. RMI reported 10 new cases in April, although all in managed quarantine facilities. Tuvalu and Tokelau are yet to report any cases. Trends in COVID-19 case numbers in the Pacific as of 16th May (as reported through the SPC 'COVID-19: Pacific Community Updates' website[2]) are set out below:



- SPC report that rates of vaccination in the Pacific are generally very high, with each of NR, PW, TK, TV and KI achieveing >90% first dose vaccination rates amongst PNA Parties. Vaccination rates in SB are climbing, while PNG remains at low levels.



- Multiple media oultets report that COVID related restrictions in Chinese ports, particularly Shanghai, are creating substantial backlogs in global supply chains[3]. One estimate suggests around 20% of the world's active container ships are currently in 'traffic jams' outside congested ports, with around 30% of the backlog in China alone[4].
- The FAO reports that its Food Price Index fell slightly in April 2022, down 1.2 points (0.8 percent) from the all-time high reached in March, though still 36.4 points (29.8 percent) above its value in the corresponding month last year[5].

Notes:

- Data on catch, effort, catch rates and transhipment is based on electronic reporting through iFIMS as at 17th May, 2022. Some data may change as more information is added over time. Figures for April 2022 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://www.spc.int/updates/blog/2022/04/covid-19-pacific-community-updates#CurrentStatus
[2] https://www.spc.int/updates/blog/2021/12/covid-19-pacific-community-updates#CurrentStatus
[3] https://www.dw.com/en/shanghai-covid-lockdown-threatens-new-export-delays/a-61557795
[4] https://fortune.com/2022/04/21/china-covid-lockdown-shanghai-port-supply-chain-backlog-container-ships/
[5] https://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/foodpricesindex/en/