

Weekly Market News

11th - 15th March 2024

Integr8 Research's Steve Christy: Whatever happens, Rotterdam VLSFO prices are likely to be relatively high

READ
UPDATE



Unimot starts physical bunker supply in Polish ports

Polish marine fuel supplier Unimot Paliwa will supply **MGO** in Polish ports using road tankers. It will initially cover the ports of Gdańsk and Gdynia, which are located by the Baltic Sea. The company carried out its first delivery in the Port of Gdynia on 11 March. It bunkered the tugboat Fairplay VII, which is owned by Polish tug operator Fairplay Towage Polska. It plans to expand physical deliveries of MGO in April, to the Baltic Sea ports of Szczecin and Świnoujście and the Port of Police on the Oder River. Unimot Group may also start supplying **VLSFO** and **HSFO** with bunker barges in the Port of Gdansk, after a planned expansion of the terminal infrastructure is completed there.

Rotterdam to expand LNG bunkering capacity

The Gate terminal is an LNG import terminal in Rotterdam's man-made Maasvlakte port expansion area, and will get a new jetty built to meet growing demand for **LNG bunkering**. Interested parties can submit their expressions of interest by 12 April. LNG bunkering and small-scale ship loadings are currently conducted at Jetty 3 of the Gate terminal. But due to the high utilisation of Jetty 3 and growing demand for LNG bunkering in the port, the terminal operator plans to develop an additional jetty named Jetty 4. "The new jetty is an important step in reducing GHG emissions towards the marine sector by facilitating services for LNG, Bio-LNG and synthetic LNG," Gate terminal said. "Providing shore power to reduce NOX and GHG emissions during the stay at the jetty is in the scope of the project," it added.

Panama Canal Authority opens for more daily transit slots

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) has raised the number **daily transit slots** by three because of recent rainfall. While this has increased the total number daily maximum transits to 27 in the Panamax Locks, it is still 10 short of the typical 36-37 daily transits. But the recent action is a positive sign after a period of record drought since last June. To accommodate the additional traffic, two extra slots will be auctioned for transit dates starting 18 March. Also, an extra slot will be available for dates beginning 25 March. Despite the increase in slots, the ACP has reduced the maximum draft at its larger locks by nearly two metres, highlighting ongoing efforts to manage water levels. There are currently 49 ships waiting to transit the canal, marking a significant decrease from a peak of about 130 last August.

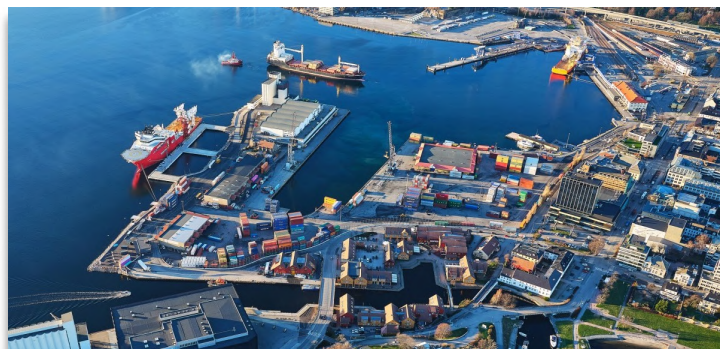
GCMD identifies ammonia bunkering sites in Singapore

Advario and Vopak terminals at Jurong Port have been identified as "promising land sites" to **pilot ammonia bunkering** in Singapore, the Global Centre for Maritime Decarbonisation (GCMD) said in a webinar. "These sites are suitable for piloting shore-ship bunkering operations as they meet key criteria, such as safety, ease of access to, and extensive experience and capabilities for handling ammonia," GCMD said. Advario operates a tank terminal at Singapore's Jurong Island Port with a total storage capacity of around 580,000 cbm, and Vopak intends to expand its existing ammonia infrastructure at the Banyan Terminal to encompass ammonia bunkering. Both terminals are accessible by barge, trucks, vessels and pipelines, according to Advario and Vopak. GCMD has identified Raffles Reserved Anchorage as a third optimal location to pilot ammonia bunkering. Singapore aims to pilot ammonia bunkering after developing safety regulations by 2026, and when ammonia-capable vessels are on the water.



Maersk vessel to be retrofitted with methanol propulsion

Danish shipping giant A.P. Moller-Maersk's conventional-fuelled 15,000 TEU container ship, Maersk Halifax, will be **retrofitted** to run on **methanol** by Zhoushan Xinya Shipyard in China. The vessel will be equipped with a dual-fuel methanol engine from MAN Energy Solutions and a methanol fuel supply line from Alfa Laval. The retrofit project is expected to begin in July this year and could take three months to complete.



Norway grants funding for 17 shore power projects

17 **shore power projects** across Norwegian ports have been granted a total of \$13.63 million from Norwegian government's clean tech funding arm, Enova SF. The recipients include ports of Kristiansand, Trondheim and Nordkapp, and shore power providers Havnekraft and Fjuel. Enova also plans to support "charging infrastructure for maritime transport," its head of maritime transport Rune Holmen said.

Antwerp-Bruges bunker sales in 2023

7.12m mt

Antwerp-Bruges bunker sales in 2022

4.97m mt

Antwerp-Bruges emerges as fourth biggest bunker hub

The Port of Antwerp-Bruges released its **bunker sales** figures for the first time in years. Its Antwerp sales data goes back to 2015, while Zeebrugge sales are from 2016 onwards. The Port of Antwerp-Bruges' combined sales might have reached their highest level ever last year, and were at least greater than in any year since 2015-2016. The sales figures also revealed an increase in total bunker fuel sales in every quarter of 2023. Consolidated fuel oil bunker sales in Antwerp-Bruges were **up by 31%**, while total marine gasoil sales surged by 169%, with a 347% rise in the first quarter alone. Singapore maintained its position as the biggest conventional bunker hub in 2023, with a combined 51.85 million mt sales figure for conventional and bio-blended bunkers. It was followed by Rotterdam with 9.63 million mt of conventional and bio-blended bunkers sold. Fujairah came in third with 7.36 million mt bunker fuels sold, followed by Antwerp-Bruges which looks to be the fourth biggest bunker port with 7.12 million mt.

Weekly Brent developments

Front-month ICE Brent is heading for a significant **4% rise** on the week, backed by strong global demand forecasts from both OPEC and the International Energy Agency (IEA).

Upward pressure:

OPEC upheld its global oil demand growth forecast at 2.2 million b/d for this year. It expects a further increase of 1.8 million b/d in 2025, with demand reaching 106.2 million b/d.

The IEA, meanwhile raised its oil demand growth forecast for 2024 by 110,000 b/d to 1.3 million b/d.

The surge in oil prices can be attributed to "optimistic short-term outlooks" from industry bodies, indicating a strong rebound in oil demand, said SPI Asset Management's managing partner Stephen Innes.

A 1.54 million-bbl weekly drop in US crude stockpiles also supported Brent.

Downward pressure:

Despite voluntary output cuts by several members of the OPEC+ group, the core OPEC group's oil production rose by 203,000 b/d on the month in February. This uptick was driven by increased output from non-complying nations - Libya, Nigeria and Iraq. Iraq was "non-compliant" for the second consecutive month, said ANZ Bank's Daniel Hynes.

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