

# PRC Crew Changes During Covid-19



**HKSOA webinar**

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# Pacific Basin – Well Positioned for Future

## Our Vision

“  
To be a leading ship owner/operator in dry bulk shipping, and the first choice partner for customers and other stakeholders”

[www.pacificbasin.com](http://www.pacificbasin.com)  
Pacific Basin business principles and our Corporate Video



Owned Fleet

**117**

81 Handysize  
35 Supramax  
1 Post Panamax

63 Ships with  
PRC Manning

Hong Kong HQ

**12**

Global Offices

**300+**

Shore-based staff

**3,900+**  
Seafarers

World's largest owner and operator of modern Handysize and Supramax Ships

**240+ Handysize and Supramax vessels**



Total Cargo Volume Carried in 2019

**67m tonnes**



**9,000+ Port Calls across 110 Countries**



Secure counterparty

**US\$2bn+**

total assets;  
strong balance sheet

**500+**

Major Industrial  
Customers

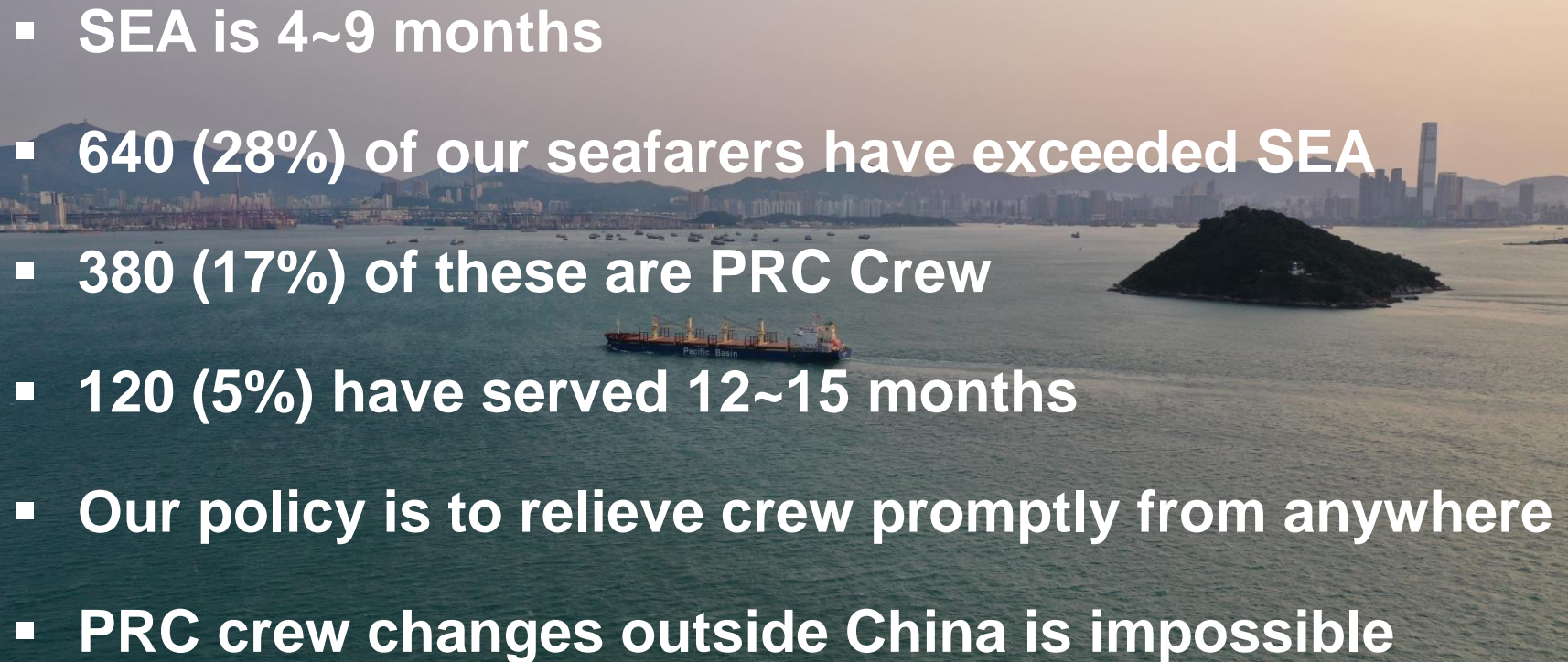


**1,500+**  
voyages/year



## PB Crew – 2,270 Seafarers on Board

Ships	Full PRC Crew	PRC Officers & Filipino Ratings	Fil/FSU/HK/Bangladesh Officers & Filipino Ratings
<b>116</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>53</b>

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- SEA is 4~9 months
  - 640 (28%) of our seafarers have exceeded SEA
  - 380 (17%) of these are PRC Crew
  - 120 (5%) have served 12~15 months
  - Our policy is to relieve crew promptly from anywhere
  - PRC crew changes outside China is impossible

## PRC Crew Change - In China

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All PB ships are registered in Hong Kong

- 1) China allows only PRC crew to be changed
- 2) NOT ALL Chinese ports permit crew change
- 3) It's not permitted to call a Chinese port just for crew change
- 4) In some Chinese ports, authorities restrict sign-off to 5 PRC crew per ship even when most crew have completed SEA, which is extremely concerning
- 5) Port authorities change requirements for crew change without any notice
- 6) Chinese terminals do not allow ships to stay at berth or at anchor after crew change for the new crew to familiarise with ship and equipment

**We request China to allow all ports to permit crew change at least for Chinese nationals without any restrictions whatsoever**



## PRC Crew Change - Outside China

Nationality	Crew overdue for relief	Crew over 12 months	Status and Crew changes planned
PRC	379	93	12 ships in Chinese ports, subject to authorities permitting 24 ships in EU ports, subject to flights & ports permitting

- 1) Severe shortage of flights due to the **Five-One policy** (only one flight per week to one country) by China CAAC on international flights, making it **impossible to get seats for PRC seafarers to/from China**
- 2) Restriction on commercial flights from China to Europe for PRC crew to join, and from Europe to China for PRC crew to return home is **preventing crew change on Atlantic trade while PRC crew are standing by**
- 3) Seats are sold out months ahead in economy (fares >30,000 RMBs –US\$4,000 per seat, which is almost the daily TC hire of our ship these days) and US\$9,000 for business class, due to **Five-One policy**
- 4) Chinese Airlines do not accept LOU (for visa on arrival) from European Agents, which is in breach of IMO/ILO/ICAO circular, even when we agree to buy return tickets for PRC seafarer joining the ship in EU
- 5) Impossible to apply for Schengen visas for crew, as embassies ask for confirmed tickets (which is in breach of IMO circular) as once-weekly flights to are sold out months in advance
- 6) No charter flights into and from China, though we have been trying through our travel agents for PRC seafarers
- 7) Ports require seafarers to have confirmed flight tickets before they can depart the ship
- 8) Notwithstanding all these difficulties for Ship Owners to relieve their fatigued PRC crew serving >12~15 months on board, **China does not permit PRC seafarers to transit through HKG, which is an excellent hub airport**

**If Chinese Government allows TRANSIT of PRC Seafarers through Hong Kong on ANY Airlines (lots of flight connections), we can relieve all our PRC crew promptly.**



# Request to Hong Kong & China Government

All our ships are registered in HK, and we request both Hong Kong Government and Chinese Government's support and compassion for our PRC Seafarers. You have ratified SOLAS, STCW, MLC and Ship Owners look upto your support to facilitate crew changes in accordance with UN/IMO/ILO/ICAO circulars.

**Seafarers are tired, fatigued, depressed and even denied medical assistance in some ports during Covid-19**

We can relieve all PRC seafarers if China would:

- 1) Relax **Five-One Policy** or reserve minimum number of seats on international flights for PRC Seafarers
- 2) Compel Chinese airlines to repatriate PRC Seafarers as and when required
- 3) Allow PRC Seafarers to transit HK Airport, which has daily connections to/from Europe

**HK & China Govt liaise and relax all these at once (in time for IMO's Day of the Seafarer on 25 June) and ensure that no Chinese seafarer has to stay on board beyond their agreed SEA (6~9 months) beyond June**

**TIME IS RUNNING OUT – A DISASTER IS WAITING TO HAPPEN WITH FATIGUED SEAFARERS OPERATING SHIPS IN BUSY PORTS AND NAVIGATING BUSY SHIPPING LANES.**

**ITF HAS ENCOURAGED THEM TO STOP WORK FROM 16 JUNE AND THERE ARE REPORTED DETENTIONS.**

- Please help us to help PRC Seafarers on our ships, so we can run safe ships to industry leading standards
- We have also asked our PRC Manning Agents to liaise with Government to facilitate PRC crew change by relaxing restrictions on air transport and helping PRC seafarers to be relieved and employed

