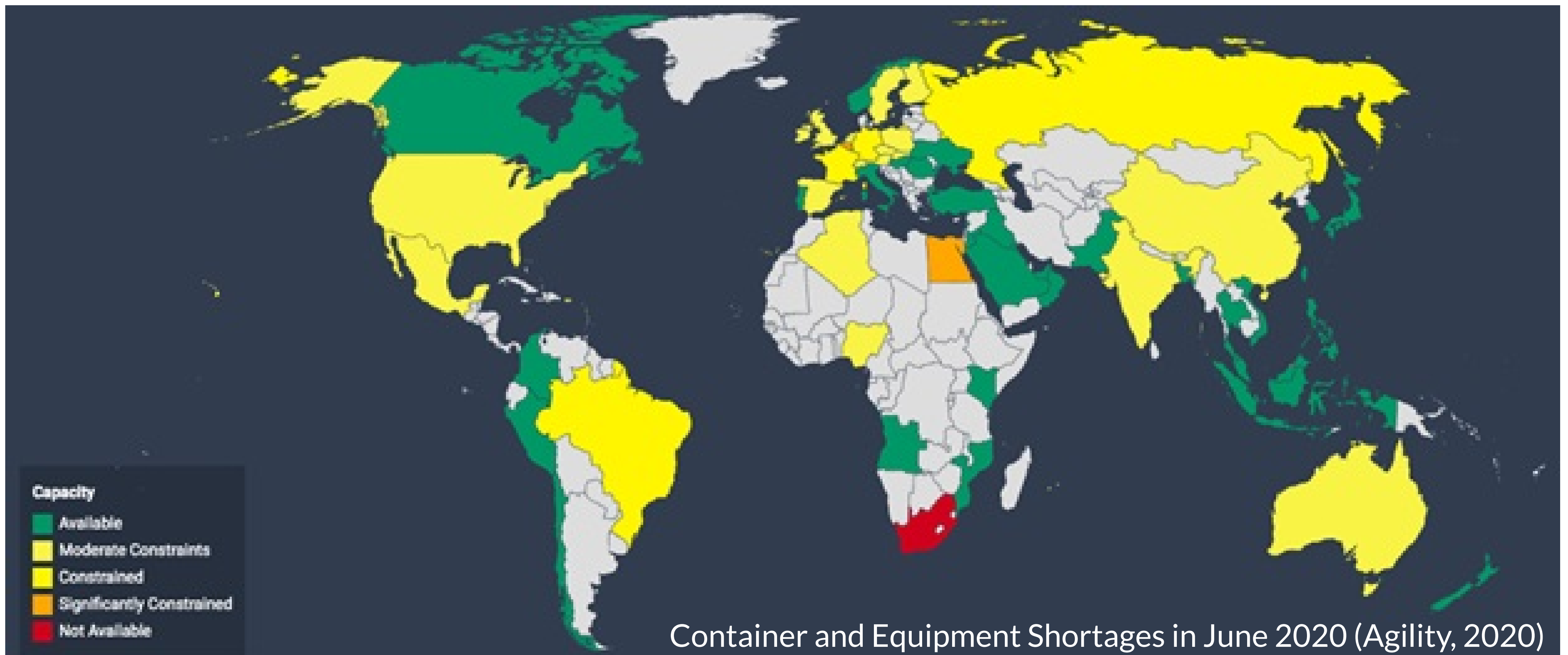


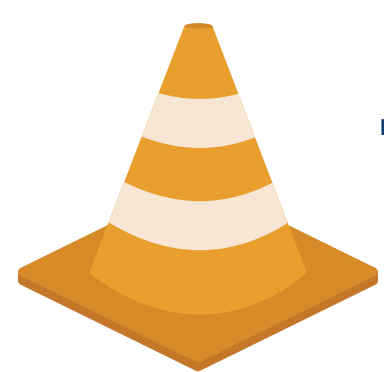
Implications of COVID-19 on Ocean Ports

Heather Park
Research Assistant
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Collaboration with
Dr. Allan Tupper
Political Science UBC



What are the present challenges facing world ocean ports and the global shipping industry?



The research was centered on policies related to the:

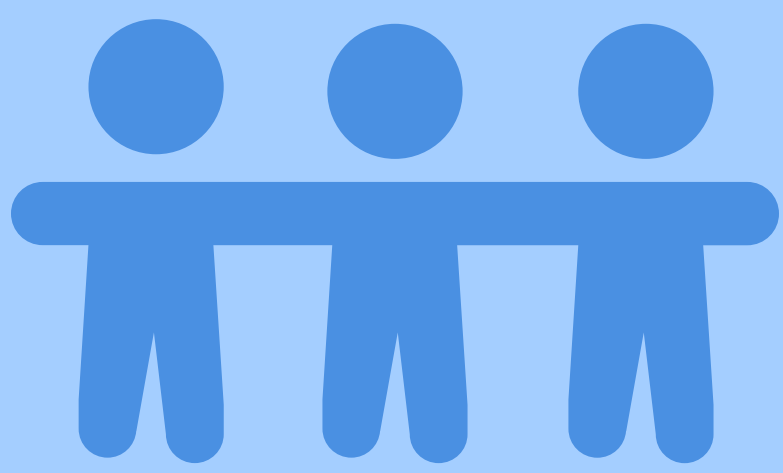
- (1) Health and safety of port workers and vessel crews,
- (2) Changes to port operations, and
- (3) Allowance of and process for vessel crew changes.



10 Major World Ocean Ports

Long Beach, USA
Vancouver, Canada
Rotterdam, Netherlands
Le Havre, France
Antwerp, Belgium
Hamburg, Germany
New York, USA
Tokyo, Japan
Singapore
Shanghai, China

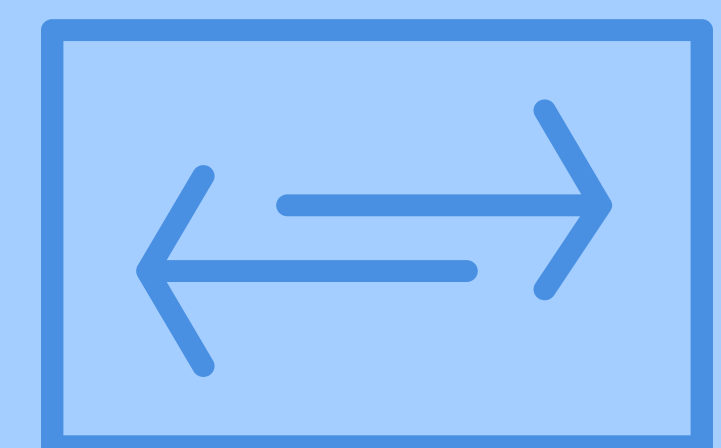
Main Findings



Social distancing measures were put in place for port workers and vessel crews, in addition to limiting the need for port workers to board vessels to conduct port operations.



All ports are requiring vessels to submit a Maritime Declaration of Health at least 24 hours prior to arriving in port. Even after leaving port, vessels are required to report any adverse changes in vessel crew health to the last port of call.



Vessel crews have been subjected to restricted shore leave, except for emergency purposes. This has created logistical challenges around the ability to make crew changes when contracts expire.



Many ports have prioritized the shipment of medical equipment and essential health care related supplies by staging them as priority containers for timely distribution.

A decrease in global consumer demand, in addition to manufacturing slowdown and delays in the movement of shipments upon port arrival, created supply chain delays.



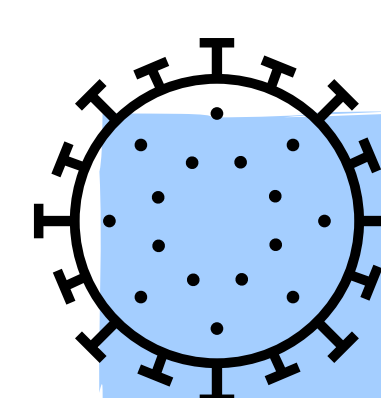
The COVID-19 pandemic tasked world ocean ports and the shipping industry with addressing policy challenges for which there were no precedents.

Policy Relevance

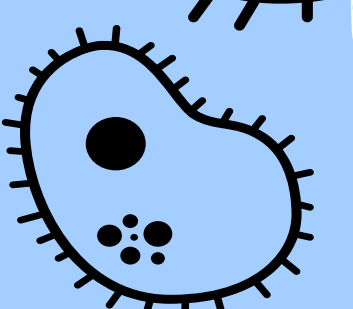
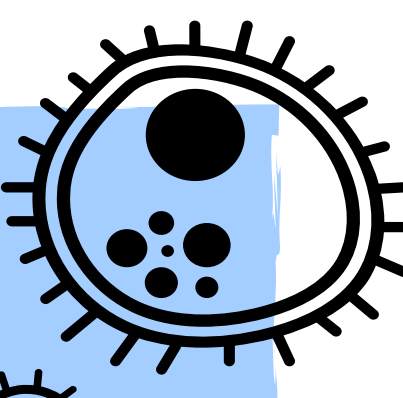
The IMO successfully provided leadership by releasing a recommended framework of protocols

Sustainability initiatives have largely been put on hold to address other challenges emerging due to the pandemic

So, why can't the same global mobilization not take place to address the threat of climate change, particularly as it relates to the shipping industry's emissions contributions?



Covid-19 Impact



This highlighted gaps in port policies related to crisis response, as well as the warehousing and digital logistics of the maritime shipping transportation cycle.

There was a lot of variance in the health and safety measures put in place for port workers and vessel crews, which is especially problematic considering the globalized nature of world ocean ports.

This draws attention to the importance of the role of international organizations, like the International Maritime Organization (IMO), in providing guidance on governance surrounding regulations and best practices for operations of the shipping industry and world ocean ports.

Hopefully between ongoing work by shipping companies, and a recent proposal put forth to the IMO by the Port of Hamburg to establish a global research and development fund, sustainability initiatives for world ocean ports can be prioritized within the industry even as it continues to navigate ongoing policy challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.