

# CANADA Daily News and Updates March 31st 2025

## Ocean Updates

- Report: Under Pressure from China, Hutchison Will Delay Sale of Panama Ports

## International Business/Government

- Shippers Have Hard Choices to Make, Says GSF, as Tariffs Begin to Bite

## Ocean Updates

### Report: Under Pressure from China, Hutchison Will Delay Sale of Panama Ports

The controversial deal by CK Hutchison to sell its two port operations in Panama is reportedly going to be delayed. The South China Morning Post and Chinese-controlled newspapers are reporting that the target date of April 2 for the signing of definitive documentation will not proceed but also said this does not mean the deal is canceled.

Chinese officials later confirmed that the State Administration for Market Regulation would be reviewing the transaction. The South China Morning Post reports that the officials said the review was to “ensure fair competition in the market and safeguard the public interests.” Bloomberg adds that the review will be looking for potential security or antitrust violations.

Read more in an [article from The Maritime Executive](#).

## International Business/Government

### Shippers Have Hard Choices to Make, Says GSF, as Tariffs Begin to Bite

With a range of tariffs to be implemented on Wednesday by the U.S., shippers will need to make some hard choices – and likely pay some “hard dollars.”

The tariffs are set to be paid by U.S. importers, those established as an ‘importer of record’ and able to open a payment account with U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP).

The ramifications of the new trade barriers will only be discovered once shippers have made some choices, said James Hookham, director of Global Shippers Forum.

“The real impact on trade and economies will come from the way that U.S. importers respond to this additional cost. Do they ‘pay and absorb’, and take a hit on profits, and their share price?

“Do they ‘pay and inflate’ – pass the cost on in higher retail prices and probably lose market share to home-produced products?

“Or do non-U.S. manufacturers look to reduce their export price and effectively pay the tariff themselves, but at least maintain their current prices in the U.S. market? We call that ‘pay and squeeze’.”

There are other options – but not quick ones, and the benefits could change overnight.

Read more in an [article from The Loadstar](#).