

Date 5/20/2025

Re: May Market Update – Portunus pelagicus and Monomia haanii

Blue Swimming Crab / Portunus pelagicus (SE Asia)

The Indonesian fishery is in full throttle mode right now with processors at capacity trying to fill strong container demand for immediate shipment. The goal is to have containers arrive/cleared prior to 7/8 deadline for reciprocal tariff adjustments. That fact has had a profound impact on beach pricing, with all grades up XX% over the past few weeks. Supplies in the States appear tight relative to steady demand. Despite economic headwinds and continued uncertainty, restaurant and retail demand for pasteurized crab meat seems steady. This bodes well as we enter the strongest part of the year. Expect improving supplies and firming pricing over the next 30 days.

Red Swimming Crab / Monomia haanii (Vietnam, China)

As is normal in mid-May, production in Vietnam has yet to kick into gear. The weather remains largely hot and dry, keeping fishermen on shore. We have seen some indications of weather pattern changes which could trigger renewed activity. Once that happens, container demand should be very high in an effort to beat the 7/8 reciprocal tariffs at 46%. As with blue crab, this demand against tight/no supply has driven up container pricing. Prices on most grades have risen dramatically, up \$2-\$3/lb. Lump is somewhat of an exception in that it represents 40% of the container so packers are hesitant to price it where it might limit demand.

Supply Chain Update

Diesel pricing remains flat, down only \$0.03/gallon over the past 30 days. As importers, across all product categories, attempt to beat the 7/8 deadline for reciprocal tariffs, we expect somewhat of a surge in inbound arrivals in June. The one factor that mutes this is China, still dealing with high tariff rates and curtailing its exports to the USA. That should lessen the overall congestion at the ports and not inhibit the clearance of the inbound containers.



