

April 2, 2020

Ahoy Pacific Puddle Jumpers,

Needless to say almost the entire fleet of puddle jumpers is in a state of limbo, regardless if they are staged along the west coast or are here in Nuku Hiva.

Here, like everywhere else, there are more questions than answers at the moment. And, of course, it's futile to guess when the Pacific Islands might open their doors to cruising yachts again. It could be a matter of weeks, or a matter of months.

Nuku Hiva's largest bay currently has about 75 boats in it. Some are based here long-term, others have been here for the entire cyclone season, and still others are recent arrivals.

The official word is that French Polynesia is closed to cruising sailors, but they do not simply turn them away when they arrive. And while the official word is that arriving yachts should go directly to Tahiti, they are allowed to come to Nuku Hiva to fuel up, reprovision, and make repairs for a yet-undefined number of days. Each arriving yacht is dealt with individually.

Yachts that sail on to Tahiti will be put on a mooring, in a marina or in an open anchorage. Crews will be repatriated to their home country.

Here in Taiohae Bay, sailors are restricted from leaving their boats except for a few essential needs. Nevertheless, there's a great group of international people here in this on-the-water community, making the best of the circumstances, and waiting for the restrictions to be lifted.

Wish we had better news to convey, but in the meantime we hope you are safe and secure wherever you are. Will bring you more news as soon as we get it.

--Andy