

Ahoy Pacific Puddle Jumpers,

Please read the following important policy clarifications.

MIXED MESSAGES

As noted in yesterday's PPJ Fleet Letter, earlier this week French Polynesia's president and high commissioner issued a joint statement announcing cancellation of almost all pandemic-related restrictions, including inter-island travel. And they stressed the need to get the local economy moving again.

As stated in yesterday's Fleet Letter, we and others involved with the local marine industry took these statements as strong indicators that visiting foreign yachts which are now in FP waters, having been granted temporary entry for repairs or resupply, would almost certainly be allowed to clear in properly now, just as they would in any other year.

In addition, the tone of the joint statement led us to assume that new arrivals would now — or would very soon — be welcome to clear in and cruise the archipelagoes as in years past. But a notice received this morning from Tahiti's JRCC makes it clear that the country is still officially "closed" to new arrivals, as it has been — officially — for more than two months. So if you are considering throwing off your docklines to head west, we suggest you wait until that policy stance is officially relaxed. Within a few weeks there may well be policy changes announced 'down-stream' also, in the Cooks, Tonga, Fiji, New Zealand and Australia, all of which are now closed.

If you are already underway, and wish to be granted temporary entry into French Polynesia for repairs or resupply, the Agency for Maritime Affairs and Tahiti JRCC will both need to receive a special form from you via email, at least two days in advance of your landfall. (Contact events@latitude38.com for details.)

Boats granted entry on a temporary basis will now have to self-quarantine aboard for 14 days. Yes, this policy was put in place at the beginning of the confinement in March, then cancelled due to the logic that passage-makers isolated at sea for several weeks had, in fact, undergone self-quarantine. We suspect that the policy may have been reinstated due to the arrival yesterday of an Ecuadorian fishing vessel with three sick crew aboard. They are now being treated at a facility in the Marquesas. No word yet on whether their illness is COVID-19.

Stay tuned. No doubt more important news, including policy adjustments, will come soon.

(JRCC website is www.jrcc.pf)

— Andy

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LATITUDE 38 MAGAZINE & THE PPJ

Finally, we want to invite you to become familiar with our longtime event partner, Latitude 38 Magazine and its online Newsletter 'Lectronic Latitude. The editors there are always eager to receive photos and stories from cruisers like you about favorite destinations and the cruising lifestyle. (Email editorial@latitude38.com.)