#### UNDERSTANDING FORWARD FREIGHT AGREEMENTS

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# **Actual market / Index**





- Snapshot of today's market environment
- Independent and trusted
- Reflecting **ALL IN** prices including all surcharges; **no** Terminal Handling Charge (THC)
- Shanghai Shipping Exchange (SSE)
- Shanghai Containerized Freight Index (SCFI)
- Balanced panel (15 Carriers, 17 Forwarders)



- SCFI Index published weekly (Friday; 15:00 Beijing Time)

# Risk





Exposure in the future brings uncertainty:

- Macro economical effects
- Tonnage availability
- Bunker price
- Strikes / walk outs
- Severe weather
- Disasters
- War / Crisis
- Political or technical blockades of shipping routes
- Long: underlying is owned / risk of <u>falling</u> price (Seller)





# Terminology





Bid: Ask / Offer:

Hedging: Protection; counterbalancing contract

Forward Freight Agreements (FFA), Paper, Swap, Forward, Container Freight Swap Agreement (CFSA), CFD, Derivative

Buyer Seller

Settlement:

Comparison with market / index at specific date

In the money: Out of the money: receiving cash owing cash

A FFA is a separated, abstract contract. Entered now, cash is paid in the future



### **Forward Curve**





	USWC USD/FEU		
Feb-13	2,280.00	***Spread***	2,500.00
Mar-13	2,325.00	/	2,525.00
Apr-13	2,500.00	/	2,665.00
Q2 13	2,500.00	/	2,700.00
Q3 13	2,475.00	/	2,775.00
Feb-Dec	2,375.00	/	2,600.00
Cal 14	2,300.00	/	2,600.00

LIGNAC LIGD / EELI

- Several financial instruments available
- Simply pick and choose
- Interest matched => FFA contract price = <u>ONE NUMBER</u>!



# **Functionality of a FFA / 3PL perspective**





### **Index Linked Freight Contracts**



- Physical volumes agreed separately from future prices
- Duration > 1 year
- On procurement or / and selling side
- Freight rate is floating / always spot
- Discounts are possible
- No frills as floors / ceilings, corridors etc.





# Floating contract / FFA s'

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- To gain business: separate Volumes from Prices
- Pick and choose the right financial instrument
- or stay "unprotected"





- Think 3 Steps ahead
- Think abstract
- Remember your balance sheet

### **Research tools**

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- Macro economical indicators

GDP's, PMI's, Car Sales, House Sales, base interest rates, money volumes, exchange rates, ...

- Media

JOC, PIERS, HANSA, Alphaliner, Bloomberg, Reuters, Equity analysts, bank's publications

ICAP
Market reports
Slot Capacity Indicator, Cargo Monitor,
Container App for BlackBerry's and iPhone.

- Risk simulation Data can be automated imported in defined risk models



### **Corporate Implementation**



- CFO/Board level decision
- Definition of responsible persons / traders
- Definition of interfaces between finance, research, sales departments etc...
- Sales staff training
- Additional transaction processing (i.e. Invoicing)

-Monitoring

-Maintaining trading account



#### **Business cases**

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- Need for a long term, fixed rate?
- Focus on service levels, relaiability, sustainability?
- Long term client realtionships prefered?
- Tired of loosing out in tenders?
- Ever calculated total costs of a quote?
- Attracts "high volume low value" cargo?
- Need to justifies costly IT / set up solutions ?
- Peace of mind approach?
- Assure as high as possible correspondance:
- Procurement FFA Cargostream
- Use the index / discounts
- Manage the Price using the FFA



### **Stage of the FFA market**





- Constantly rising trading volumes
- Leading banks entering / provide liquidity
- New indices cover additional geographical regions

- Shipowners preapred to fix tonnage based on a freight index
- Electrolux just extended index linked contract
- Several index linked contracts filed with the FMC
- Panalpina, Logfret , SEKO Logistcs, Cargill, SDV Geis, commited
- 2 Clearing houses eliminate counterparty risk

ICAP comission:

5-15 USD per Container (TEU or FEU) / month => Cash flow / NOT Cargo





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