Measuring freight rates in a changing market

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The problem

THE DRY BULK MARKET IS FRAGMENTING

- the arrival of new "eco-ships" operating with significantly lower fuel consumption
- owners ordering larger ships within market segments:
- 208,000 dwt Newcastlemaxes v. 180,000 dwt standard Capes
- 82,000 dwt Kamsarmaxes v. standard Panamaxes
- 64,000 dwt Ultramaxes v. standard Supramaxes
- All of this is posing difficulties for the measurement of freight rates

Comparative vessel economics

Current Baltic standard Cape:

- 172,000 dwt
- slow steaming at 12.0 knots laden/13.0 knots ballast consuming 44 mt/day

New Baltic standard Cape:

- 180,000 dwt
- slow steaming at 12.0 knots laden/13.0 knots ballast consuming 43 mt/day

Eco-Cape (basis Cape America fixture):

- 187,882 dwt
- slow steaming at 11.6 knots laden/12.8 knots ballast consuming 30 mt/day

Voyage calculations

Converting \$/day hire into a \$/mt cargo cost

- Steaming times: distance, ship speed, sea steaming allowance
- Port times: loading/discharge rates, delays
- Voyage time: Steaming legs plus port times
- Bunker consumption: steaming times + port times x fuel cons rates
- Hire costs: hire rate x voyage time
- Bunker costs: bunker consumption x fuel price
- Port costs: loading and discharge ports
- \$/mt cost: total costs / cargo tonnes







Baltic Cape route changes

ROUTE	Weighting old	Weighting new
C8 Europe transatlantic r. v. C9 Fronthaul Europe to China/Japan C10 China/Japan transpacific r. v. C11 Backhaul China/Japan to Europe	25% 25% 25% 25%	25% 12.5% 25%
C14 China to Brazil r. v. C16 Revised backhaul		25% 12.5%

Note:

the new C16 route allows for a trip from China/Japan via Australia or Indonesia or USWC or South Africa or Brazil to Europe. The Baltic is also adding a new Richards Bay to Fangcheng spot rate assessment







Not good news for followers of the freight market with the possible exception of shipping market analysts!