

15th March 2024

It's been a tough week for the Handy segment and MRs with little action, a drop in demand and a build-up of tonnage. LR2s have dropped to the lowest levels of 2024 and need some activity to kick life back into the market. After a period of quiet, LR1s have tightened up in some markets with some limited re-supply. In other markets there is still volatility in the LR1s.

VLCC rates have been flat this week, but we may see an uptick in rates (given tight tonnage) next week. The overall orderbook remains light relative to the trading fleet. The VLCC segment is aging at an increasingly rapid rate, which creates other pressures on the supply of tonnage, especially given slow steaming is a focus. Suezmax rates are holding steady so far this week with little fresh action reported. Aframax has a continued stream of ballasters depleting the early tonnage and an active fuel oil market has been taking vessels out of some regions and into others. However, these are being repopulated with natural tonnage turning around, which should release the pressure on tonnage and rates in the short term.



