

## New maritime route for Chilean winter fruit to the US

The Chilean shipping company Cool Carriers, which specializes in the international shipping of fruit, will begin a test service between Chile and the Port of Gloucester, in the United States, to transport off-season or winter fruit, such as citrus, apples, pears, and kiwis, from the ports of Coquimbo and Valparaíso, according to Pedro Toro, the commercial manager of Cool Carriers.

The company previously only carried Chilean fruit between November and April; however, the increase in the production of winter fruit, especially citrus, has given them the opportunity to establish this new transport service in the Chilean winter season.

For the moment, the company will only make two test shipments to decide upon the continuity of this service, which allows transporting a greater quantity of fruit than land transport. In addition, the duration of the voyage by sea is about 12 days, so the fruit, which is a perishable product, won't be affected.

The ships, which can load 5,000 to 9,000 pallets, taking into consideration their warehouses and deck, will make the route Coquimbo-Valparaíso-Gloucester, on the east coast of the United States.

Between May 8 and 9, the Pacific Mermaid ship will be loaded in Coquimbo, and its cargo will be completed in Valparaiso on May 10 and 11.

The second shipment is scheduled for May 22 and 23 in Coquimbo, and May 24 and 25 in Valparaíso with the Baltic Winter ship. Both ships will arrive in Gloucester with the Chilean fruits about 12 days after sailing from Valparaiso.

Pedro Toro predicts a successful future for this type of operation in the Chilean winter season.

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