



March 13, 2002

MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-07-2002

TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Monthly Canal Operations Summary – FEBRUARY 2002

1. Statistical Summary:

- a. Transit Pilot Force 284
- b. Pilots in Training 0
- c. Tugs 22
- d. Locomotives 98
- e. Traffic Statistics (Preliminary):

	<u>Average Daily</u>	<u>High Daily</u>	<u>Low Daily</u>
Arrivals	34.1	45.0	25.0
Oceangoing Transits (Includes Handlines)	33.6	38.0	25.0
Canal Waters Time (Hrs.)	21.8	29.7	16.5
In-Transit Time (Hrs.)	9.0	10.4	7.8

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Supers</u>	<u>Regulars</u>
Bookings	427	228	199

2. **Scheduled Locks Outages**

Dates	SCHEDULED LOCKS OUTAGES						Status
	No. of Lane Outage Days	No. of Culvert Outage Days	Miraflores	Pedro Miguel	Gatun	Transit Capacity	
Jun 3 – 13, 2002	11		Lane Outage (9d)	Lane Outage (9d)	Lane Outage (11d)	26 – 28	Tentative
Jul 7 – 16, 2002	10		Lane Outage (9d)	Lane Outage (10d)		28 – 30	Tentative
Aug 12 – 22, 2002	11				Lane Outage (11d)	26 – 28	Tentative
Sept 16 – 26, 2002	11		Lane Outage		Lane Outage	26 – 28	Tentative

Note: Whenever a set of locks requires a major outage of one of its two lanes for dry chamber inspection, miter gate repairs, tow track work or other major maintenance/improvement projects, advantage may be taken of this requirement to perform simultaneous single lane outages for additional maintenance at other locks.

- 3. See reverse for items of interest to the shipping community.
- 4. This advisory will be canceled for record purposes on March 31, 2002.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Jorge L. Quijano
Maritime Operations Director

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR THE SHIPPING COMMUNITY

CANAL PERFORMANCE

In February, oceangoing transits totaled 941 or a daily average of 33.6. Transits by wide-beam vessels, 30.48 meters (100 feet) and over, totaled 346, or 36.2 percent of all oceangoing transits. The average Canal Waters Time (CWT) was 21.8 hours.

Clients commend Panama Canal initiatives

PANAMA CITY, February 28, 2002 -- The Panama Canal under Panamanian administration has been "very proactive" in providing solutions to shipping, according to business and maritime industry leaders participating at a maritime conference this week in Panama.

The conference, organized by the Panamanian Maritime Lawyers Association and the Panama Chamber of Shipping, attracted more than 300 delegates from more than 30 countries from Asia, North and South Americas and Europe.

Panama Canal Authority (ACP) executives were commended by International Maritime Organization Secretary General William A. O'Neil, who remarked on a recent Canal presentation in London regarding security and risk management at the waterway. O'Neil said that the Panama Canal is a "vital artery for the world's economy," and Panama has a "major responsibility" in maintaining high quality maritime services around the world, regarding its flag-state services.

Canal Administrator Alberto Alemán Zubieta assured conference participants that the Canal is "working very hard and aiming very high" to make the waterway safer, more efficient and cost-effective for shipping.

Conference speaker José Vicente Pallares, from Ecuador's Favorita Fruit Group, awarded the waterway "the highest grades" for its performance since its transfer to Panamanian stewardship in 1999. "Everything that was pledged in 1999 has been fulfilled." Pallares noted that more than 80 percent of Ecuador's economy relies on the Canal, particularly for banana and oil exports.

Panama Maersk Sealand Manager Hans Stig Moller noted that his company has filed less claims under Panamanian administration and is very satisfied with the new late fee included in the booking system, as it enables vessels to continue with transit plans despite late arrivals in Canal waters. Maersk Sealand registers 15 vessel calls per week at the Canal.

Alemán Zubieta pointed out that the waterway recently received ISO 9001 certification of its maritime operations and finalized the Culebra Cut widening projects, underscoring its commitment to becoming a cornerstone of the global transportation system. The Canal's future expansion plans support Panama's goal of becoming a leading regional transshipment hub, something that Alemán Zubieta said is "a matter of State that must transcend governments."

The ACP Board of Directors and senior executives also met with the Panama Canal Authority Advisory Board, chaired by William A. O'Neil.