



April 11, 2002

MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-08-2002

TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Monthly Canal Operations Summary – MARCH 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	35.5	47.0	22.0
Oceangoing Transits (Includes Handlines)	35.9	41.0	25.0
Canal Waters Time (Hrs.)	25.9	45.9	17.5
In-Transit Time (Hrs.)	10.2	13.6	8.3
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Supers</u>	<u>Regulars</u>
Bookings	513	255	258

2. Scheduled Locks Outages

SCHEDULED LOCKS OUTAGES							
Dates	No. of Lane Outage Days	No. of Culvert Outage Days	Miraflores	Pedro Miguel	Gatun	Transit Capacity	Status
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 April 30, 2002.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Jorge L. Quijano
Maritime Operations Director

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR THE SHIPPING COMMUNITY

CANAL PERFORMANCE

In March, oceangoing transits totaled 1113 or a daily average of 35.9. Transits by wide-beam vessels, 30.48 meters (100 feet) and over, totaled 383, or 34.0 percent of all oceangoing transits. The average Canal Waters Time (CWT) was 25.9 hours.

PANAMA CANAL SIGNS EMERGENCY POLLUTION ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH U.S. NATIONAL RESPONSE TEAM AGENCIES

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) signed a technical agreement with member agencies of the U.S. National Response Team, enabling the waterway to obtain assistance in case of significant pollution incidents affecting the Canal area.

The U.S. signatory agencies included the Environmental Protection Agency, the Coast Guard and the Department of State, signing respectively as chair, vice-chair, and member of the National Response Team (NRT).

The NRT, composed of 16 U.S. federal agencies, has provided its response assistance capabilities during environmental emergencies in many countries throughout the world. The agencies within the NRT have developed numerous procedures to ensure the coordination of government and private response to oil spills and releases of hazardous materials.

During the signing ceremony at the Panama Canal Administration Building, ACP Administrator Alberto Alemán Zubieta reaffirmed the spirit of cooperation underlying the agreement in the event of a significant pollution emergency in the Panama Canal area. Depending on the nature of the incident, the ACP may call upon the NRT for the services provided under the agreement.

The support provided by the NRT would complement the ACP contingency efforts to counteract environmental emergencies by enabling experienced agencies within the U.S. government to provide assistance with pollution incidents that could affect the Canal area, at the request of the ACP.

The ACP conducts quarterly exercises to sharpen emergency response skills and procedures, performing both simulations and tabletop exercises, to guarantee adequate emergency preparedness at the waterway. These strict training requirements reinforce the Canal's organizational structure, which is designed for the efficient safeguarding of human lives, the environment and Canal facilities.

Some 600 ACP employees in the Emergency and Contingency Management Division, the Canal Protection Division, the Environmental Management Division and the Safety Division work closely to preserve the safety and security of the waterway.

Under the terms of the agreement recently signed, the ACP would notify the U.S. National Response Center after activating its own Contingency Plan and determining that a significant pollution incident has occurred. If necessary, a technical assistance team would be deployed to assist the ACP, with the team leader reporting to the ACP Incident Commander, who would remain in charge of the incident.

This agreement also provides for an annual tabletop exercise to ensure the continuity in communications, planning and operations between the participating agencies from both countries, should an event require the activation of the assistance agreement.