



November 13, 2003

MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-48-2003

TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Monthly Canal Operations Summary – OCTOBER 2003

1. Statistical Summary:

- a. Transit Pilot Force 280
- b. Pilots in Training 0
- c. Tugs 24
- d. Locomotives 100
- e. Traffic Statistics (Preliminary):

	<u>Average Daily</u>	<u>High Daily</u>	<u>Low Daily</u>
Arrivals	30.60	47.00	19.00
Oceangoing Transits	30.90	37.00	24.00
Canal Waters Time (hours)	31.38	51.32	17.55
In-Transit Time (hours)	11.16	15.43	8.11
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Supers</u>	<u>Regulars</u>
Booked Transits	476	299	177

2. Scheduled Locks Outages:

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF LOCKS OUTAGES FOR REMAINDER OF YEAR 2003 AND 2004						
Dates	No. of Days	Miraflores	Pedro Miguel	Gatun	Daily Transit Capacity	Status
Dec 4 – 5, 2003 *	2			Lane Outage	26 – 28	Confirmed
Jan 14 – 16, 2004	3	Lane Outage			30 - 32	Tentative
Feb 4 – 6, 2004	3	Lane Outage			30 - 32	Tentative
May 31 – June 10, 2004	11			Lane Outage	26 – 28	Tentative
July 5-15, 2004	11		Lane Outage	Lane Outage	26 – 28	Tentative
August 9-19, 2004	11			Lane Outage	26 – 28	Tentative
Sept 13-23, 2004	11			Lane Outage	26 – 28	Tentative
Oct 18-28, 2004	11			Lane Outage	26 – 28	Tentative
Dec 2004	3			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.

Transit Capacity: The normal capacity of the Panama Canal is 38 vessel transits per day. This capacity is reduced during locks outages, as indicated in the above table. Consequently, vessels may experience delays in transiting. Normally, during these periods, the Panama Canal Vessel Transit Reservation System slots are fully utilized. Two-day lane outages have no significant impact on Canal vessel backlog, therefore not normally included in this chart.

- 3. * The 2-day outage for December 4 - 5 was initially scheduled as a 3-day outage in November. Even though it has been reduced to a 2-day outage, we are including it in this chart this time for your convenience.
- 4. See reverse for items of interest to the shipping community.
- 5. This advisory will be canceled for record purposes on November 30, 2003.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Jorge L. Quijano
Maritime Operations Director



ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR THE SHIPPING COMMUNITY

CANAL PERFORMANCE

In October 2003, oceangoing transits totaled 958, or a daily average of 30.9. Transits by wide-beam vessels (30.48 meters/100 feet in beam and over) totaled 428, or 44.2 percent of all oceangoing transits. The average Canal Waters Time (CWT) was 31.38 hours.

PANAMA CANAL WEBSITE RECEIVES TOP ACCOLADES IN CENTRAL AMERICAN COMPETITION

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) Web site (www.pancanal.com) received special recognition in the 2003 Golden @ Contest of El Salvador as the “Most voted for Web site” by users in Central America. Accepted on behalf of the ACP by Roderick Guerra, Ambassador of Panama to El Salvador, the award was sponsored by Microsoft – El Salvador and *El Diario de Hoy*, a leading newspaper in El Salvador.

Launched in December 2000, www.pancanal.com was constructed by an in-house graphics design team, executing the vision of Webmaster Leyla Raymondo and the ACP Corporate Communications Department.

The Canal Web site provides detailed and up-to-date information about the operation and administration of the Panama Canal, both in Spanish and English. A vital resource to shippers, the Web site offers weather reports, maritime advisories and information on procedures to transit the Canal, allowing companies and the shipping industry worldwide to efficiently plan their trips through the Canal.

To the public and the media, the Web site is an invaluable educational tool with unique information, including live shots of ships transiting the Canal, records on the workings and management of the Canal, as well as official documents and news on the maritime industry around the world.

“The ACP is thrilled to be recognized by voters in the Golden @ Contest; we are committed to providing a practical, informative and creative Web site. www.pancanal.com is an essential tool for the maritime industry, serving as a gateway to information for our customers worldwide to help them with their transportation and logistical needs,” said Information Technology Director of the ACP, Francisco Loaiza.

Loaiza continues, “In addition, people all over the world, including those who supported us in this competition, access the site on a daily basis to receive information and learn about the Canal. We take pride in our ability to communicate over the Internet the great things happening at the Canal.”

The ACP Web site was previously recognized on May 30, 2003, with the 2003 Golden @ in Panama in the “Government and Associations” and “Best Projection in Panama” categories.